Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-071

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LD131232 [Editorial Report]

Hijacked Kuwaiti Airliner

Algerian Interior Minister El-Had Khdiri held talks with the hijackers inside the aircraft 13 April following its arrival at Houari Boumediene Airport before dawn, Algiers radio reported. After leaving the plane, Khdiri disclosed that the hijackers are still determined that their demands be met, though they are "calm" and have said they will not use violence in Algiers. The radio subsequently reported the arrival of a Kuwaiti delegation at the airport.

The refueling of the aircraft and its departure from Larnaca Airport followed the release of 12 passengers, leaving 8 hijackers and 32 other people on board, according to Nicosia radio and television reports. A statement by the hijackers described the release of 2 Palestinians holding Jordanian passports and 10 other passengers as a gesture of "goodwill," AFP noted.

PLO officials held talks with the hijackers before the 12 were released, and a PLO representative subsequently told AFP that the remaining hostages will be released in Algeria. Nevertheless, the hijackers issued a radio message before leaving Larnaca in which they denied having agreed to hand the plane over to any party, the agency added.

Among further comment on the affair, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani denied that Iran is behind the hijacking, emphasizing that "this is not a noble deed for a noble cause at all," IRNA reported. Larijani criticized Kuwait's handling of the crisis, and he said Iran will never again allow hijackers to land at an Iranian airport.

At a Kuwait press conference reported by AFP, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stated that the hijackers have acted under orders from an outside command, which radioed instructions that made them change their attitude during the negotiations on 11 April. 'Arafat said the PLO has identified this command, but he told newsmen that he cannot give further details while mediation efforts are still under way to save the lives of the hostages.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iran has suffered a "disaster" in its unsuccessful offensive in the northern sector, an Iraqi military spokesman declared in a statement to INA. Iraq's I Army Corps killed or wounded 6,000 Iranians from the 15,000-strong attacking force, he said, and "large numbers" of Iranians were also captured. The Iranians failed to capture any Iraqi territory and their war machine in the area has been totally crushed, the spokesman contended. An Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio likewise stressed that the I Army prevented the Iranians from capturing any of the border heights in the Panjwin area which they were targeting.

However, military communiques carried by Tehran radio claimed that Iranian forces "liberated" eight strategic heights in the Panjwin area 11-12 April. Several "puny" Iraqi counterattacks were repulsed, a communique said, and Iraqi losses rose to over 3,500 casualties and 310 captured. The Iranian offensive was backed by heavy artillery fire and 44 air strikes on Iraqi military targets. IRNA said that Iranian forces captured over 35 sq km of territory. The agency also accused the Iraqis of using chemical weapons, adding that the Iranians donned protective devices, though "many" were injured.

As for the missile bombardment, Iraqi statements carried by Voice of the Masses announced that three "Al-Husayn" missiles were fired at Tehran 13 April. The radio had earlier reported another missile attack on Tehran 12 April, the fourth missile strike on Iran that day. For Iran's part, Tehran radio carried a Joint Staff announcement that two missiles were fired at Al-'Amarah 13 April. In the Gulf, a Saudi oil tanker was attacked and set on fire by "gunboats" near the Strait of Hormuz 12 April, Tehran radio noted, citing a news agency report.

Iranian Gulf Diplomacy

Returning to Tehran after visiting Oman, the UAE, and Qatar, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said his tour of these countries was aimed at discussing bilateral and regional issues, including Iran's recent "victories" and Iraq's chemical bombing of Halabjah, IRNA reported. Velayati added that he and his counterparts in the three shaykhdoms held "identical views on the need to combat the Zionist regime and world arrogance."

Velayati met with the UAE president and the amir of Qatar during his tour, IRNA noted. The UAE leader reportedly said that his country enjoys "close ties" with Iran, while the Qatari amir stressed the need for "cordial relations" between neighboring countries in the region.

Israel

Infiltrators Killed—An IDF force killed three "terrorists" in a clash near the Israeli-Lebanese border 13 April, IDF radio reported. The infiltrators, who were carrying M-16 rifles, were on their way to carry out an attack on Israeli civilians, the radio added.

Territories—"Dozens" of Gaza residents were wounded when the IDF dispersed rioters with tear gas, rubber bullets, and live ammunition, Jerusalem radio reported 12 April. The soldiers were assisted by a helicopter which fired gas grenades and gravel at the rioters. Twenty five Arabs were admitted to local hospitals, most of them hurt by tear gas and rubber bullets, though one boy was wounded in the leg by gunfire, IDF radio noted. Two Arabs were also wounded by IDF gunfire in Nabulus, Jerusalem radio said.

Political Developments—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is ready to visit Moscow during the upcoming Reagan-Gorbachev summit if Jordanian King Husayn is also invited for talks between Israel and Jordan, according to "informed sources" cited by Jerusalem television. The television added that Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of Shamir's office, will raise this proposal during a meeting with Soviet envoys in London.

However, officials in Shamir's office categorically denied that Ben-Aharon will hold contacts with Soviet representatives in London, MA'ARIV noted in a related report. DAVAR reported that the USSR has postponed a scheduled meeting in Paris between its representatives and Nimrod Novik, special envoy of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

In remarks to Jordan Rift Valley settlers broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Peres reaffirmed his insistence that the Jordan River should be Israel's security border, adding that Israeli settlements in the area should remain in place. He said there is an Israeli-U.S. "understanding" that no existing settlement will be uprooted.

USSR Mideast Policy

First Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov met with the Kuwaiti ambassador in Moscow 12 April, according to KUNA, where they discussed the "tense" situation in the Arab Gulf and the spread of international terrorism, particularly the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner.

In remarks cited by TASS, Vadim Perfilyev, deputy head of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Directorate, told a news briefing that Israeli threats to launch a preemptive strike at Saudi missile installations were "inadmissable in present-day international relations." Such threats show that Israel keeps "flagrantly trampling" upon international law, Perfilyev added.

A Soviet official visiting Jordan said that the two countries share "identical" views on solving the Middle East crisis, Amman radio reported. The official discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict with King Husayn and other Jordanian officials.

Saudi Arabia

The interior minister termed Iranian "insistence" on sending an unlimited number of pilgrims to repeat the "subversive actions" they carried out at last year's hajj "idle talk" and declared that Iran's words carry "no value," SPA reported. However, the minister stressed that all pilgrims would have to observe the security measures imposed and warned that those violating them would "meet a capable hand which will deter them."

Afghanistan

Brigadier General Shah Aqa was killed by "extremists" near Pol-e Matak while on his way to Kabul, Kabul radio reported 12 April. Moscow radio, citing Western diplomatic sources, noted that the mujahidin continue to receive "large" consignments of arms, including "heavy armaments and the latest antitank weapons," received in the past 2 months "for the first time."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Says 'Command' of Hijackers Identified

NC121120 Paris AFP in English 1112 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Kuwait, April 12 (AFP)—Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said Tuesday that he was negotiating the possibility that a hijacked Kuwaiti jet could leave Cyprus for Algeria.

Mr 'Arafat added that the PLO had begun the initiative at the request of Kuwait. "We have entered into contact with the Algerian Government so that they accept the plane," he said. "We only want to make sure that the hijackers will leave for Algeria and not another place."

Speaking to a news conference here, Mr 'Arafat also affirmed that the PLO had identified the command of the hijackers. Asked if this command were based in Iran, he replied: "Your question is very difficult. Allow me not to answer so that I can continue my mediation and secure the lives of the hostages."

But he said that most of the hijackers were either Lebanese or Bahraini. "Four are Lebanese and two are Bahraini. We have learned this from our intelligence services, not by any deduction based on their accents."

Mr 'Arafat also said that progress had been made up until Monday morning in negotiations between his representatives in Cyprus and the hijackers for the release of 45 hostages on board the plane.

"But suddenly, during the day Monday, a third party not present in Cyprus came on the line between us and the hijackers, and soon afterwards they changed their attitude." He said that the PLO had identified this "third party as the command of the hijackers."

"We are now trying to make contacts with him," the PLO leader said. He did not say how the "third party" made contact with the plane at Larnaca Airport, which is on the southeastern coast of Cyprus. [passage omitted]

Comments on Negotiations

LD121426 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1311 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait 12 Apr KUNA—Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO Executive Committee chairman, has stated that the threats, the hijacking, and the aggression facing Kuwait are all "a price that Kuwait has to pay for its pan-Arab stances in the Arabian Gulf."

He emphasized, in a meeting with Kuwaiti journalists, that the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner "Al-Jabiriyah" is an act against religion, Islam, and the oppressed."

He added: "The hijackers showed their vileness when they threw the body of the second victim from the plane without showing any respect to humanity and morals." He pointed out: "Death should be venerated and respected, even with enemies."

He stated that negotiations between the PLO and the leadership of the hijackers in Beirut has reached "a difficult stage following the killing of the second victim," and added: "We told them that pressure upon Kuwait is not being exerted by you but from the circles which are directing you from outside."

He stated that Kuwait is facing—threats, hijacking, and aggression—are the result of its pan-Arab stances in the Arabian Gulf, which is, however, the right stance.

He pointed out that the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner "Al-Jabiriyah" is aimed at distracting the world's attention from the courageous Palestinian uprising against the Israeli enemy in the occupied territories.

Mr Barjas Hammud al-Barjas, chairman of the Board of Directors of KUNA, expressed on behalf of the Kuwaiti press his appreciation for the Palestinian stand toward the hijacking and its efforts to put a peaceful end to it.

Mr 'Arafat expressed his regrets "because we have not reached a solution yet," stressing that "Kuwait's pan-Arab stands are well-known and no one can deny them."

Mr Barjas continued, saying "that the Palestinian stand in this crisis is an honorable one dictated by the Arab reality, and this is the Kuwaiti people's opinion."

Mr 'Arafat stressed that the hijack of the Kuwaiti plane is a vicious act which is against religion, Islam, and the oppressed on earth."

He said that Algeria has agreed, according to its interior minister, to send a delegation to join the Palestinian one as the hijackers requested, which will return to Algeria in the plane with the hostages.

But Mr 'Arafat dismissed the fact that the operation will end when the Kuwaiti plane leaves for Algeria if there are no guarantees from the hijackers and those who are directing them to free all the hostages.

'Arafat Says Israel 'Accomplished Fact'

TA111634 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] The State of Israel is an accomplished fact. The remaining problem is the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and this must be accomplished. These remarks were made by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in an interview with the Israeli Communist Party organ. Gadi Hitman brings the details:

[Begin recording] Israel and the Palestinians must accept the United Nations resolution passed 40 years ago which called for the establishment of two states: Israel and a Palestinian state. Yasir 'Arafat was interviewed by reporter Leon Zehavi and the interview is published today in the communist party RAKAH's organ [ZE HADEREKH] in the Soviet capital.

'Arafat said that both he and Soviet leader Gorbachev agreed on the need to establish a Palestinian state along with the State of Israel. The PLO chief maintained that the Shultz plan supports the Israeli side only, denying the Palestinian people's rights, the result being that Shultz is not working toward the achievement of a just peace.

'Arafat further said the State of Israel is an accomplished fact and that the only problem now is the establishment of an independent Palestinian state which, he states, has to be accomplished.

It is possible that Gorbachev's admonishment to 'Arafat to recognize Israel caused the latter to make these declarations. At the same time, 'Arafat's political adviser Hani al-Hasan announced yesterday that Gorbachev had not asked 'Arafat to recognize Israel.

Commentators think tonight that the PLO does not want to appear receptive to Soviet dictums and that Al-Hasan's announcement was made with that end in mind. [end recording]

Palestinian Factions Sign Agreement in Libya

LD121419 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1032 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Apr 12 (QNA)—Nine Palestinian factions have signed an agreement to bolster support for the uprising in the occupied territories and to step up Palestinian action abroad.

UAE daily (AL-ITTIHAD) published today said the intensive inter-Palestinian meetings in Tripoli in Libya last week culminated in the signing of the first document for joint action since the discord in the Palestine Liberation Organization of May 1983.

The paper quoted Palestinian sources in Damascus as saying it was the first time that a document was signed by Khalil al-Wazir, for (Fatah) movement and 'Isam al-Qadi, for the Al-Sa'iqah with representatives of the other factions which would bolster prospects for an improvement in relations between Fatah and Damascus.

PLO Envoy Hands Credentials to Vorontsov

LD062008 Moscow TASS in English 1449 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov today received Nabil 'Umar who handed him a letter on his appointment as representative extraordinary of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in the Soviet Union.

Vorontsov reaffirmed in the conversation the Soviet people's solidarity with the Palestinian people's courageous struggle for their legitimate national rights and wished 'Umar success in his high position as PLO representative in Moscow.

Guyana Establishes Relations with PLO

LD062005 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] The Government of Guyana has established diplomatic relations with the PLO. A government source in the capital said the PLO representative in Korea [as heard] will take charge of Palestinian interests in Guyana.

Algeria

Hijacked Kuwaiti Airliner Lands in Algiers

Arrives 13 Apr

LD130219 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0214 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Algiers, 13 Apr (KUNA)—The hijacked Kuwaiti aircraft landed at Houari Boumedienne Airport in Algiers at 0500 Kuwaiti time this morning with 40 people, including 8 hijackers, aboard.

Officials Meet Hijackers

NC130521 Paris AFP in English 0500 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Algiers, April 13 (AFP)—Algerian officials and hijackers holding some 30 hostages aboard a Kuwait Airways 747 met for 10 minutes here Wednesday following the plane's arrival from Cyprus, correspondents reported.

The talks were conducted by Algerian Interior Minister El Hadi Khdiri, Transport Minister Rachid Benyelles and national security chief Abdelmadjid Bouzbib.

The hijackers likewise requested and were provided with a ground generator.

Earlier reports had suggested that as many as 10 Palestinian negotiators may have joined the plane at Larnaca Airport in Cyprus, where they had helped negotiate the release of 12 hostages. But a senior Algerian official at the airport said there were no Palestinians aboard.

A plane carrying Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi was expected to arrive here shortly.

The hijackers have been demanding the release of 17 Islamic militants imprisoned in Kuwait for bomb attacks there in December 1983.

Algeria was initially disposed toward accepting the plane, seized April 5 on a Bangkok-Kuwait flight, but turned against any such move after hijackers shot and killed two of their hostages in Cyprus, according to analysts here.

A new commitment to receive the craft was eventually worked out in telephone conversations betweeen the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, Kuwaiti sources said Tuesday. [passage omitted]

1st Round of Talks Ends

LD130646 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Before dawn today, at 0310, the hijacked Kuwaiti Boeing 747, hijacked last Tuesday, landed at Houari Boumedienne Airport. The airliner is now parked near the VIP lounge at the airport. The first request by the hijackers of the airliner was for a generator. Forty minutes later the first round of negotiations began between an Algerian delegation and the hijackers. The round lasted about 20 minutes. Negotiations will resume between the two sides later.

There is an Algerian Government delegation at the airport led by Interior Minister El Hadi Khdiri, Information Minister Bachir Rouis, the Kuwaiti ambassador to Algeria, and the PLO representative in Algeria. A Kuwaiti delegation led by the minister of state for foreign affairs is expected.

Alleged Surrender Agreement

NC130844 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] A Palestinian source in Larnaca has said that the issue of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner currently at Houari Boumedienne Airport in Algeria is virtually over. He indicated that an agreement has been reached for the hijackers to surrender to the Algerian authorities and to release the passengers. The source said that this agreement was reached before the plane took off from Larnaca for Algeria.

El Hadi Khdiri Meets Hijackers

LD130840 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0805 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Mr El Hadi Khdiri, who boarded the aircraft at 0755 this morning, an aircraft which he left at about 0830, said only a word to the people around him—that is, that things were going well. He has now made a statement to the press. I will sum it up for you very rapidly.

Mr Khdiri said that the hijackers are calm, but still just as determined to have their demands met. He said: The hijackers repeated their demands to me, and they charged me with conveying them to the Kuwaiti authorities.

Mr El Hadi Khdiri said that a Kuwaiti delegation will be there at about 1130 and that he had agreed with the hijackers to see them again after that contact. Between now and then he has to get the response of the Kuwaiti authorities, which he will then convey to the hijackers.

Mr Khdiri was questioned, in particular, about the health of the hostages on board: It is good, he said. The hijackers also assured Mr Khdiri that they will not use any violence in Algiers. Have they backtracked, one of our colleagues asked? No, not at all. I did not get that impression, Mr Khdiri said. They are calm, however, and say they will not use violence in Algiers.

For the moment, that is what we know. I do not think there will be any news between now and midday, perhaps since the official Kuwaiti delegation is expected at 1130. The conversation with Mr Khdiri will undoubtedly take a few minutes, or perhaps even longer, and he will then go back on board the hijacked Boeing. I would remind you that it has been grounded at Houari Boumedienne Airport since about 0300 this morning. Traffic is operating normally and the atmosphere is relaxed. There are also a great many journalists from practically all the outlying stations and major television stations of the world.

2d Round of Talks Ends

LD130816 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The second round of negotiations between the Algerian authorities and the airliner hijackers has ended. They lasted about 35 minutes—from 0755 to 0830. The Algerian authorities were represented at these negotiations by El Hadi Khdiri, member of the FLN Central Committee and interior minister.

Our station has learned from unofficial sources that the second round of negotiations gives rise to optimism. At any rate, we are waiting for new developments and will report back to you.

'Optimism' Expressed

LD131042 Kuwait KUNA in English 1005 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 13 (KUNA)—Algerian Ambassador to Kuwait Al-Hasnaoui Khaldi Wednesday expressed optimism that an end to the tragedy of the hijacked Kuwaiti airplane 'Al-Jabiriyah' will take place "very soon".

Khaldi, in a statement to KUNA, hailed the Kuwaiti and Algerian leaderships and their efforts and coordination since start of the ordeal.

He pointed out that Algeria had responded to the call by the Kuwaiti leadership topped by h.h. the amir and H.H. Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah.

The envoy stressed that Algeria's positive response emanated from its conviction of the importance of effective solidarity of its leadership and people with Kuwaiti leadership and people.

The ambassador extended condolences to families of the two Kuwait martyrs 'Abdallah al-Khalidi and Khalid Bandar, who were murdered by the hijackers while in Larnaca, Cyprus.

Al-Khalidi underlined that contacts were underway over the hijack between h.h. the amir and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid as well as between H.H. Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah and Algerian Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi.

He pointed to the presence of coordination between Kuwaiti officials and Algerian leadership officials over the same issue.

The ambassador stressed that it was only natural that "the Algerians would feel the dilemma of their brothers in Kuwait and also natural that they would respond to the call of fraternity and amity."

He then speculated that the tragedy of the hijacked plane will end very soon and denied that Palestinian officials were taking part in the negotiations with the hijackers in Algeria.

He hailed, meanwhile, the Palestine Liberation Organization's efforts during negotiations with the skyjackers in Cyprus.

No Arrest Pledge Made

NC131058 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The Algerian ambassador in Kuwait has stated that his country allowed the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner to land in Algeria on the condition they release the hostages.

He added that the Algerian authorities have pledged to not arrest the hijackers after they release the passengers.

3d Round of Talks Ends

LD131105 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1045 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Unscheduled dispatch from correspondent at Houari Boumedienne Airport]

[Text] The latest news is that three vehicles carrying an Algerian delegation have approached the hijacked Kuwaiti Boeing 747. The three vehicles stayed there for about 5 minutes. Then a person got out and climbed the stairs leading to the aircraft. From a distance of 700 meters we saw the person climbing the staircase. The door of the aircraft was then opened. A conversation ensued for about 4 or 5 minutes between the Algerian person—whose identity we could not establish; at any rate he was definitely not the interior minister—and another person. Then members of the Algerian delegation returned in the three vehicles to the VIP lounge.

So far we do not know what went on during the talk, or this contact, which is the third of its kind since the aircraft landed at 0310 today at Houari Boumedienne Airport.

In a future dispatch we hope to be able to provide details of this conversation. At any rate, we are awaiting the arrival of the Kuwaiti delegation, which is due in Algiers in a few minutes. The Kuwaiti delegation is led by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, and will continue the negotiations. It will focus on conveying the replies of the Kuwaiti authorities to the hijackers' demands, which have been renewed.

Following the arrival of the Kuwaiti delegation in Algiers, the Algerian interior minister will contact the hijackers again to convey to them the replies of the Kuwaiti authorities.

Kuwaiti Delegation Arrives

LD131129 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1123 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Excerpt] The aircraft carrying the Kuwaiti delegation, led by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, has just landed at Houari Boumedienne Airport. [passage omitted]

Kuwait Expresses Thanks

LD131117 Algiers APS in English 1036 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait 13 April (APS)—The Kuwaiti foreign minister [title as received] Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, expressed Wednesday thanks of Kuwait to Algeria, which accepted, after the phone talk Tuesday between Kuwait emir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and President Chadli Bendjedid, to welcome the hijacked Kuwaiti plane.

The Kuwaiti minister also said that the Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah had on his turn a phone talk with Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi.

Kuwaiti Makes Statement

LD131216 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1154 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Unscheduled dispatch by correspondent at Houari Boumedienne Airport]

[Text] The plane carrying the Kuwaiti delegation, headed by the Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, has landed, and as I promised you, Sa'ud al-'Usaymi made a statement to the local and international press in which he said:

[Begin recording] Naturally, the aim of the visit is to follow up on developments concerning the hijacked Kuwaiti aricraft which has landed on the territory of sister Algeria. In this respect I cannot but offer a great deal of gratitude to the fraternal Republic of Algeria for its warm hospitality to us. God willing, this will be the last stop of the journey of the hijacked Kuwaiti aircraft. We hope, God willing, that there will be a happy ending to this incident, which has hurt not only Kuwait, but the entire world. We are confident of the abilities and wisdom of the Algerian leadership headed by President Chadli and we are also confident that the idea of the brothers in Algeria [words indistinct] happy ending to this incident.

If there are any questions, I would prefer that they be asked after the happy ending of this incident, and I have nothing to add. I am very sorry and thank you. [end recording]

Chad

Habre Leaves on Official Visit to Cape Verde

AB081500 Paris AFP in French 1225 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Ndjamena, 8 Apr (AFP)—Chadian Head of State Hissein Habre left Ndjamena today for Cape Verde, where he is to pay a 2-day official visit, it was announced by official sources.

President Habre, who is visiting Praia for the first time as head of state, is accompanied by Ahmed Korom, minister delegate at the presidency in charge of general inspectorate and state control. He will hold talks with Cape Verdian President Aristides Pereira on cooperation between the two countries, which Chad would like to see intensified, as well as African issues, an official communique pointed out.

Presidents Pereira and Habre met in February during the summit of heads of state of member countries of the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Control of Drought in the Sahel, ICDCS.

Returns 10 Apr

AB102122 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Excerpt] El Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the Republic, returned to Ndjamena this evening from Praia, Cape Verde, at the end of a 2-day official visit at the invitation of his Cape Verdian counterpart, Aristides Maria Pereira.

The head of state was met on arrival in our capital by Ibrahim Mahamat Itno, minister of the interior and territorial administration; Hassan Djamous, commander in chief of the FANT; members of government; members of the national consultative council; members of the Central Committee of the National Union for Independence and Revolution; and members of the diplomatic corps. [passage omitted]

Habre Receives Departing Netherlands Envoy
AB081705 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Excerpt] President Hissein Habre today received His Excellency (Enst Ismich), the outgoing Netherlands ambassador to Chad, resident in Yaounde, Cameroon. The diplomat, who is at the end of his 5-year mission to the country, went to bid farewell to the head of state.

Receives Niger Envoy
AB081204 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Excerpt] After receiving the outgoing Dutch ambassador to our country today, the head of state, President Hissein Habre, also received Moustapha Tahi, Niger ambassador to Chad, resident in Lagos.

The diplomat, who brought a special message from his head of state, President Ali Saibou, to the head of state here, declined to disclose the contents of the presidential message. However, speaking on the subject of the OAU ad hoc committee on the Chad-Libya conflict he stated that his country's stand was the same as that of the OAU. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak on 'Uprising,' Middle East Conference
NC121625 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has declared that the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner is a blow to the Palestinian uprising and pointed out that this terrorist incident has distorted the image of Arabs throughout the world.

Today, during a meeting with junior Arab journalists attending a training course in Cairo, President Mubarak said:

The uprising is our main preoccupation. We do not want anyone to exploit it for personal interests. The uprising did not wait for the U.S. presidential elections to take place. It came as a result of a people's feeling of injustice. This feeling spurred their behavior and made them despair of any solution, from inside our out. We, the Arabs must work to stop the settlement activity in the occupied territories and to convene the international peace conference.

Regarding Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's stand on the international peace conference, President Mubarak asked: Why does Shamir reject the conference; why is he afraid of it?

President Mubarak added: We had no hope that the U.S. Administration would act, but it has acted after my recent visit to the United States. He stressed that the international conference will be the beginning of discussions and talks which will take their time until a solution is reached.

President Mubarak urged all parties concerned to grant the Palestinian people their legitimate rights.

Regarding the call for the establishment of a Palestinian state, President Mubarak said:

First we must sit down and agree, because an independent Palestine is an Arab affair. We must get the land back and then talk about the final objective and how to achieve it. There are parties that fear the international conference. Why should we talk about the final objective before the conference is convened and thus increase their fears?

Asked about Jordanian-Palestinian representation at an international conference, President Mubarak said:

This representation must be within the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. We must forget our private interests and unify our methods before the world to achieve a unified Arab strategy and basic Arab consensus.

President Mubarak then referred to Egyptian-Libyan relations. He indicated he hopes Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is serious in his desire to improve relations. He asked, however, why Al-Qadhdhafi has linked the improvement of relations to the opening of the borders between the two countries.

President Mubarak noted that back in 1985 the Americans urged him to confront the dangers posed by Al-Qadhdhafi. He affirmed that Egypt has always been committed to preventing its land being used as a staging point for any attack on an Arab or regional state.

The president said Egypt is capable of confronting Al-Qadhdhafi, but he is concerned about the Libyan people. The destruction war causes and the harm it does to a country's economy are well-known.

The president affirmed that there are no Egyptian forces on the western borders. He pointed out that Al-Qadhdhafi reinforced some of his positions on the borders while making his speech announcing that he was withdrawing his forces.

President Mubarak added that Egyptian-Libyan relations should be governed by good neighborliness. He pointed out that since his assumption of the presidency 25 Libyan emissaries have visited Cairo asking for the opening of land borders.

The president said: If we are serious, let us begin by opening air routes between the two countries. But the Libyans are not convinced and insist on opening the land borders.

The president added that one proposal was made for him to meet Al-Qadhdhafi on the Egyptian-Libyan border and another to meet him in Yugoslavia. He said:

As is our duty, we agreed to the proposal to meet Al-Qadhdhafi on the Egyptian-Libyan border or in Yugoslavia, and we have rejected a proposal to meet him in Libya.

The president asked why the Libyans are asking for the opening of the land borders and nothing else? He said: I know all the facts. My responsibility is to safeguard Egypt's security and stability.

President Mubarak denied Libyan claims that Egyptian aircraft are carrying out reconnaissance sorties [over Libya]. He explained that in modern warfare troop buildups on borders are outdated. Modern warfare has its own technology, which is completely different from methods used during World War I. Satellites can now clearly detect any movements.

Deportation of Palestinians 'Strongly' Condemned

NC131227 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—Egypt has strongly condemned the Israeli occupation authorities' deportation of eight Palestinians from the occupied territories.

In a statement today, a responsible source at the Foreign Ministry said that this Israeli act, the second such this year, constitutes a violation of international conventions and norms and completely contradicts the 1949 Geneva convention, which protects civilian populations living under military occupation.

The source noted that it is truly regrettable that Israel should resort to such oppressive measures without incurring world-wide condemnation at a time when it is necessary to establish the right conditions for reaching a peaceful and just settlement in the region.

Sidqi Meets Mubarak, Condemns Hijacking

NC121419 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Today, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. Following the meeting, Dr Sidqi said he had submitted a report on the outcome of his visit to Sudan to President Mubarak.

Prime Minister Sidqi said that President Mubarak will chair a plenary meeting the middle of next week to discuss a number of bills, including the local government bill and the unified investment bill. These bills have been prepared and revised in the light of the ministers' meetings with the president.

Answering a question on wage increases, the prime minister said that studies on wage increases had been concluded, but the final table of wage increases had not yet been adopted.

Dr Sidqi said that he discussed the issue of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner with President Mubarak. He stressed that Egypt denounces and condemns such acts in which peaceful people, who have nothing to do with politics, are victimized.

Asked if PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will visit Egypt, Dr Sidqi said Egypt always welcomes 'Arafat and all Palestinian leaders.

Asked about reports from an Arab news agency that diplomatic relations will be restored between Egypt and Algeria, Dr Sidqi said there is nothing to prevent such a step. Egypt welcomes more Arab cohesion. Algeria is an important Arab state, but there is no specific information about this matter, he said.

Asked about the talks Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd is holding in Saudi Arabia to consolidate the Arab organization for industrialization, Dr Sidqi said:

I believe this subject is the main purpose of the visit. There is a need to secure an organized return of those countries which used to contribute to the organization, after many years of absence.

Abu Ghazalah Comments on Agreement With U.S.

NC131218 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has affirmed that the memorandum of understanding signed between Egypt and the United States recently does not contain any secret clauses nor provide for any military facilities or privileges for the United States.

Abu Ghazalah noted that, under this memorandum, Egypt will have the right to participate in U.S. military scientific research without bearing any burden. An Egyptian committee, he disclosed, has been formed to discuss the production of a new antitank weapon and to participate in research on electronic warfare.

At a meeting at the Al-Biqa' Club today attended by Armed Forces commanders and officers, Abu Ghazalah disclosed that the term of the memorandum of understanding is 5 years and is renewable. He said: We have the right to amend any of its clauses or to abrogate it.

The memorandum, he added, authorizes Egypt to bid in arms deals, prohibits the revelation of information without the consent of the memorandum's two signatory countries, and allows for the unrestricted increase of the number of Egyptian trainees according to Egypt's wishes.

Abu Ghazalah asserted that the $1.3 billion U.S. grant to Egypt next year will not decrease despite the face that the United States has decreased its military aid to some countries.

He pointed out that, during his recent visit to Washington, it had been agreed to supply Egypt with any weapon which NATO is provided with. This, he said, gives Egypt a great advantage in the field of modern armament without having to be a member of the organization.

It also was agreed to meet Egypt's licence requests for the production of modern weapons such as air-to-air missiles.

Afterward, Abu Ghazalah and the military commanders and officers dicussed the latest regional and international developments.

Chief of Staff on U.S. Aid

NC131117 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Washington, 13 Apr (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci has affirmed that the Reagan administration will not relinquish its active role in the Middle East peace process. He also repeated that the United States is grateful for President Husni Mubarak's support for the peace efforts in the region.

This came in statements by Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shinaf, chief of staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces, to Egyptian press representatives shortly before leaving Washington for Florida as part of his current U.S. tour.

Lt Gen Abu Shinaf noted that Frank Carlucci and a number of top U.S. officials have expressed their appreciation and respect for President Husni Mubarak's intensive efforts to maintain peace and stability in the Middle East. During his stay in Florida, Abu Shinaf is scheduled to visit the U.S. Central Command Headquarters and advanced training posts there.

In his remarks, Abu Shinaf expressed his satisfaction with the recognition by the defense secretary and senior U.S. defense officials, of Egypt's role in the region in light of its efforts to reach a settlement of the Middle East problem, especially of the issue of the occupied Arab territories.

Abu Shinaf noted that, during their meeting yesterday, Carlucci voiced the United States' appreciation and respect for Egypt's role in the region, arising from its realistic view and objective understanding of the current regional problems.

Abu Shinaf said his visit to the United States has achieved its goals and disclosed that Egypt will participate soon in the production of the advanced AM-1 tank and other modern weapons systems and equipment.

He revealed that the current $1.63 billion in U.S. military aid to Egypt will remain unchanged in the 1989 fiscal year despite the huge reduction in the U.S. military foreign aid budget.

The chief of staff pointed out that when the issue of the medium-range missile deal for Saudi Arabia was raised, he explained to the U.S. side that Israel, Syria, Libya, Iraq, Egypt, and other Middle Eastern countries possess missiles and that Saudi Arabia has no intention of threatening Israel or any other country. It is only strengthening its deterrent force in the face of threats against its independence and the unity of its territory, he added.

Abu Shinaf noted that the success of his U.S. tour is the fruit of the talks which Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense, held in Washington during his visit to the United States last month.

He disclosed that he had led the Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the seventh regular session of the Egyptian-U.S. military cooperation committee. He noted that both sides hold completely identical views on all aspects of the two countries' military cooperation including armament, military production, and training.

Abu Shinaf pointed out that the aim of any joint maneuvers conducted between Egypt and any friendly country is to gain mutual benefit. He disclosed that Egypt has conducted military maneuvers not only with the United States, but also with Jordan, France, and the Sultanate of Oman.

Concluding his remarks, the chief of staff expressed his conviction that cooperation between Egypt and the Arab countries will develop further in the military field and that Arab governments will purchase large quantities of Egyptian-made arms and munitions.

Al-Sayyid Briefs Mubarak on Arms Exhibition

NC121139 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Dr Jamal al-Sayyid [Ibrahim], minister of state for war production, in the presidential office in Heliopolis this morning.

After the meeting, Al-Sayyid said he had briefed the president on the results of his recent visit to the UAE during the Egyptian weapons exhibition there. He noted that the exhibition, which was seen by a large number of UAE and Bahraini military officials, has been a great success by all standards.

25 Charged With Sabotage on Behalf of Libya

NC131230 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] The Cairo newspaper AL-AKHBAR reports today that the trial of 25 persons charged with plotting and carrying out acts of sabotage on behalf of Libyan intelligence is scheduled to begin early next month.

The paper says that eight defendants will be tried in their absence. A report by the public prosecutor in Cairo pointed out that this group was responsible for planting explosive devices in a British Airways office and an American airline office in Cairo 2 years ago.

AL-WAFD Reports Israeli 'Assurances'

JN122042 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 11 Apr 88 p1

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that President Husni Mubarak has recently received a report from the Egyptian ambassador in Tel Aviv on his meeting with the director of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office following Egyptian statements on Israeli threats to Saudi Arabia.

The report says the ambassador received assurances that Israel has no aggressive intentions toward Saudi Arabia. The ambassador also says the Israeli prime minister has expressed the hope that President Mubarak will rely on these assurances so that a new crisis in relations between the two countries can be avoided.

Chad

Habre Leaves on Official Visit to Cape Verde

AB081500 Paris AFP in French 1225 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Ndjamena, 8 Apr (AFP)—Chadian Head of State Hissein Habre left Ndjamena today for Cape Verde, where he is to pay a 2-day official visit, it was announced by official sources.

President Habre, who is visiting Praia for the first time as head of state, is accompanied by Ahmed Korom, minister delegate at the presidency in charge of general inspectorate and state control. He will hold talks with Cape Verdian President Aristides Pereira on cooperation between the two countries, which Chad would like to see intensified, as well as African issues, an official communique pointed out.

Presidents Pereira and Habre met in February during the summit of heads of state of member countries of the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Control of Drought in the Sahel, ICDCS.

Returns 10 Apr

AB102122 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Excerpt] El Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the Republic, returned to Ndjamena this evening from Praia, Cape Verde, at the end of a 2-day official visit at the invitation of his Cape Verdian counterpart, Aristides Maria Pereira.

The head of state was met on arrival in our capital by Ibrahim Mahamat Itno, minister of the interior and territorial administration; Hassan Djamous, commander in chief of the FANT; members of government; members of the national consultative council; members of the Central Committee of the National Union for Independence and Revolution; and members of the diplomatic corps. [passage omitted]

Habre Receives Departing Netherlands Envoy

AB081705 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Excerpt] President Hissein Habre today received His Excellency (Enst Ismich), the outgoing Netherlands ambassador to Chad, resident in Yaounde, Cameroon. The diplomat, who is at the end of his 5-year mission to the country, went to bid farewell to the head of state.

Receives Niger Envoy

AB081204 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Excerpt] After receiving the outgoing Dutch ambassador to our country today, the head of state, President Hissein Habre, also received Moustapha Tahi, Niger ambassador to Chad, resident in Lagos.

The diplomat, who brought a special message from his head of state, President Ali Saibou, to the head of state here , declined to disclose the contents of the presidential message. However, speaking on the subject of the OAU ad hoc committee on the Chad-Libya conflict he stated that his country's stand was the same as that of the OAU. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Accord Reached on Overcoming 'Political Crisis'

EA122022 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Mr Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Muhammad 'Uthman 'Ali Mirghani, and Dr Hassan al-Turabi, leaders of the three main parties, met yesterday and reached a conclusive agreement on overcoming the political crisis.

They agreed to place a proposal concerning the formation of a government of national accord before the Constituent Assembly. It stipulates that the Assembly should ratify the prime minister's statement, in addition to the one that his excellency will make today.

This contains the following points, which have already been agreed upon: That a government of national accord should be formed as soon as possible following review of an agreement on its structures and the principles on which it will be formed, and that today, Tuesday, will be decisive in overcoming the crisis.

Final 'Brotherhood Charter' Document Signed

JN111135 Khartoum SUNA in English 1000 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, April 11, SUNA—The official Sudanese Egyptian talks were concluded here last night and the two sides signed the final document on the implementation of the "Brotherhood Charter" concluded by the two countries early last year.

The document was signed by Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his Egyptian counterpart 'Atif Sidqi.

Addressing the signing ceremony, Premier al-Mahdi reiterated the necessity of cooperation between the two countries in all spheres saying that "Sudan is keen to continue this path for a better future."

Sidqi, on his part, said that the signing of the document "translated the two countries hopes and ambitions into reality" expressing hopes that it would contribute to realization the objectives of the Nile Valley people.

Sudanese Ambassador to Egypt al-Amin 'Abd al-Latif told reporters that the document included a 220 million dollars of account trade protocol between the two countries.

He added that the two sides had also agreed to increase the capital of the Sudanese-Egyptian company operating in agricultural production in the Sudan, to 22.5 Sudanese pound and 8 million dollar so as to increase its cultivated area to be 200,000 feddans by the 1990-91 season.

The document also included a number of joint food security projects, the ambassador said.

In the sphere of encouraging investment bank as well as coordination in investment laws in the two countries. [sentence as received]

Al-Amin added that the two sides also agreed on joint projects in the spheres of industry, transportation and communications, information, education youth and sports, health, mining and combatting terrorism and drugs trafficking.

Mr al-Amin pointed out that the document included articles on foreign policy, security and combatting drought and desertification.

A joint committee, to be co-chaired by the undersecretaries of the Foreign Ministries in the two countries was established to follow up the implementation of the documents provisions, he concluded.

Al-Mahdi Meets Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister

EA092104 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Sudanese-Soviet talks were held yesterday at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, when Mr Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the prime minister, received the Soviet deputy foreign minister.

The two sides discussed relations between the two countries, the Horn of Africa, and a number of issues of interest to both countries.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister's visit is part of a tour of a number of African states. He recently visited Ethiopia and several meetings were held to discuss Somali-Ethiopian relations.

Bahrain

Interior Ministry Source Condemns Hijacking

JN121834 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Manama, April 12, (QNA)—Bahrain affirmed its support to all steps Kuwait takes regarding the hijacked Kuwaiti plane and denounced all forms of terrorist acts.

While condemning all terrorist acts, hijacking of planes and detention of hostages, Bahrain supports Kuwait in its firm stand toward the hijacking of the plane, a source at the Bahraini Interior Ministry said today.

He added that "we are in constant contacts with our brothers in Kuwait to folow-up the developments of the situation."

Meanwhile, the source said that the Interior Ministry is following up the situation in order to find out the real nationality of the hijackers, as all indications point that they are having forged passports.

The Interior Ministry affirmed its belief in the necessity of intensifying international and regional cooperation to fight terrorism in all fields, the source said.

He added that the security cooperation at Gulf, Arab, and international levels is required as a high priority matter to fight all forms of international terrorism at the present time and in the future.

Kuwait

Further Reportage on Hijacking of Airliner

AL-QABAS on Hijackers

JN121434 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 11 Apr 88 pp 1, 23

[By "AL-QABAS operations team"]

[Excerpts] AL-QABAS learned from sources close to negotiations with the hijackers at Larnaca airport yesterday that the armed men who hijacked the civilian airliner "Al-Jabiriyah" belong to the group of Mohammad Taqiyodin Modarresi, leader of the Islamic Action Organization [Munazzamat al-Amal al-Islami]. [passage omitted]

The informed sources told AL-QABAS that the seven hijackers belong to a suicidal group of about 500 persons led by the 42-year-old Mohammad Taqiyodin Modarresi and operate under the name of "the Islamic Action Organization."

This organization is directly supervised by the Iranian Revolution Council. It has training camps in Mashhad and Lebanon and its members are trained on self-denial and martyrdom as the goal of life.

The sources said Kuwait asked Palestinian leader Yasir ‘Arafat to contact Modarresi and arrange for the release of the passengers in return for allowing the hijackers to leave for any Arab country. However, negotiations were deadlocked due to the intransigence of the hijackers, who might have interpreted ‘Arafat's mediation as flexibility in the Kuwaiti position.

The hijackers became more tense and their language became sterner following the Kuwaiti delegation's arrival in Larnaca for negotiations.

AL-QABAS has learned that in the latest contact with them, the hijackers offered to release 34 passengers if the plane were supplied with fuel, but Kuwait turned down the offer and insisted on the release of all passengers.

AL-QABAS has also learned that Algeria is participating in the efforts to end the hijacking of the plane. It is believed the hijackers will leave for Algeria according to certain guarantees after freeing all passengers in Cyprus. This is one of the proposed scenarios.

Yasir ‘Arafat, who is currently in Kuwait, is exerting intensive efforts to find a quick end to the crisis of "Al-Jabiriyah." AL-QABAS has learned that ‘Arafat contacted more than one side in Beirut for this purpose. [passage omitted]

Names of 12 Passengers Given

LD122213 Kuwait KUNA in English 2150 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 12 (KUNA)—A source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry tonight announced the names of the 12 passengers who were released by hijackers. Following are the names of the Kuwaiti passengers [all names as received]:

Adnan Rashid Jasim Majeki, Muhammad Askanani, Habib Ibrahim Safir Malak and Salih Ibrahim Safir Malak.

Among the released were the following five Egyptians [all names as received]: ‘Abdallah Mabrouk al-‘Abid, Muhammad Kamal al-Sa‘id Ruhani, Sharif Mamduh, Ramadan Muhammad Atiyeh and Fathi Sa‘id Faltah.

There were also three Jordanian passengers among the freed [all names as received]: Sa‘di Yusif Qutainah, Hilal ‘Adil Farid and Ghassan Ahmad Hasan al-Ram‘ah.

Plane Contacts Control Tower

LD122311 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2252 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Apr (KUNA)—The hijacked Kuwaiti plane, "Al-Jabiriyah," made its first contact with the control tower at Kuwait [as received] international airport after its take off tonight from Larnaca airport in Cyprus.

A source at the airport said that the crew of the plane, Captain Subhi Yusuf, his assistant 'Id al-Azimi, and Eng Ayid al-Shumaylan, appeared to be in good health. He added that the journey from Cyprus to Algeria takes usually 4 hours and he expected the plane to land at about 0500. "Al-Jabiriyah" has now verified its course and is heading for Algeria.

'Unwavering' Stance Noted

LD131004 Kuwait KUNA in English 0913 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 13 (KUNA)—Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah affirmed Wednesday Kuwait's unwavering and principled stance of rejecting blackmail, saying, "We would not change our attitude towards our principles and our faith in them."

Speaking to newsmen following the graduation ceremony of a new batch of conscript cadets, Shaykh Nawwaf said, "Kuwait would not cave in, and would not change its attitude towards blackmail...our position as stated by officials was made by the Kuwaiti people and not the Kuwaiti Government alone."

Shaykh Nawwaf praised the high performance of Kuwaiti soldiers, saying he felt this excellence during field trips and meetings with commanders and officers of Army brigades.

He attributed the high level to the special care and attendance of H.H. the amir, the commander in chief of Armed Forces and H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah.

Addressing the graduates, Shaykh Nawwaf exhorted them to preserve the national security and sovereignty and act as a hard shield for the country.

Hijacking Discussed With USSR's Vorontsov

LD130032 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow, 12 Apr (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Ambassador to the Soviet Union 'Abd al-Muhsin Yusuf al-Du'ayj met here today with Yuliy Vorontsov, the first deputy foreign minister.

During the meeting, which was announced here today, the two sides discussed the tense situation in the Arab Gulf region and the spread of international terrorism, particularly air piracy, to which the Kuwaiti airliner "Al-Jabiriyah," for instance, has been subjected at the hands of terrorists since last Tuesday while on a flight from Bangkok to Kuwait.

PLO's Arafat Leaves After ICO Summit 12 Apr

LD121313 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 12 Apr (KUNA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Kuwait International Airport at about 1400 after having led the PLO delegation at the meeting of the body of the fifth Islamic summit conference office and that of the heads of the permament committees. [passage omitted]

ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada left Kuwait International Airport at about 1400 after having attended the meeting.

Oman

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Message Delivered to Official

LD122031 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1930 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the Islamic Republic of Iran's charge in Muscat today met and conferred with the speaker of Oman's Consultative Assembly.

At this meeting, our country's charge delivered a message from Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, to Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn 'Ali ibn Muhammad al-Qutaybi, the speaker of Oman's Consultative Assembly, and discussed with him the imposed Iraq war against Iran and bilateral relations.

Qatar

Iran's Velayati Leaves After Meeting With Amir

JN122103 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Doha, 12 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, has received a verbal message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i. Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati conveyed the message during a meeting with the amir today.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs; Shaykh Hamad ibn Suhaym Al Thani, under secretary of the Qatari Foreign Ministry; and the Iranian ambassador to Qatar. QNA said the message deals with the current regional situation and bilateral relations.

The Iranian foreign minister left Doha then at the end of a brief visit to Qatar within a regional tour.

Saudi Arabia

Interior Minister on Pilgrimage Security

LD121449 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1355 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Riyadh—His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the interior minister, has pointed out that the committees ordered set up by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, at the Council of Ministers session yesterday, Monday, will take care of issues concerning all pilgrims and not just some of them.

At a meeting with the press following the graduation ceremony for university graduate officers held this morning at the headquarters of the Institute of Officers at Al-Malaz, in Riyadh, his highness added that the Ministry of the Interior takes care of security matters and that measures are taken every year under the directives of the custodian of the two holy mosques—measures that are necessary to maintain the security of pilgrims and the security of the holy places, as well as the security of the homeland.

His Royal Highness Prince Nayif went on to say this is an ordinary matter that occurs every year. Without doubt we take precautions against every eventuality and we take security measures at the highest of levels, he said.

Answering a question about the insistence of the rulers of Iran on not being limited as to the number of pilgrims, which was unanimously approved in accordance with a resolution adopted by the 17th conference of the Islamic foreign ministers held recently in Amman, and their insistence on repeating the subversive actions which they carried out during last year's pilgrimage, his highness the interior minister said the Iranians' words are idle talk and carry no value.

He said the decision will be made here and what this country decides will be implemented, God willing, and the security of the pilgrimage and the pilgrims will be imposed on every person. Those who violate this will meet a capable hand which will deter them. [passage omitted] His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was asked whether there were any changes with regard to the security plan for this year's pilgrimage. He said that "we always take everything into account and take precaution against everything because the aim is to ensure security during the pilgrimage in the entire holy land." [passage omitted]

In reply to a question his royal highness reaffirmed that there are two Saudi nationals on board the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner. He described the hijacking incident as a tragedy. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question about the stance the Kingdom will take if Khomeyni applies for a visa to perform the pilgrimage, his highness the interior minister, Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said the pilgrimage is for all Muslims in general and we do not prevent any Muslim from making the pilgrimage.

'Source' Says Al-Jubayl Fire 'Accident'

LD091923 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Riyadh, 9 Apr (SPA)—A responsible source at the Saudi Petro-Chemicals Company in Al-Jubayl told SPA there are no indications until now that the fire which broke out in the ethylene storage tank was caused by anyone. The source confirmed that had this happened, the concerned sides would have said so at the time. The source pointed out the incident was an ordinary industrial incident and should anything be discovered in the future it will be made public then.

IRNA on 'Blanket of Secrecy'

LD122314 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] London, April 12, IRNA—The Saudi authorities have thrown a total blanket of secrecy over the latest acts of sabotage on its oil installations and has yet to make any comment about an explosion on a Ra's Tannura refinery on March 28.

LLOYD'S LIST SHIPPING GAZETTE reported the Saudi regime Monday denying that there was any evidence of sabotage in the major ethylene fire at Al-Jubayl that occurred two days after the Ra's Tannura explosion and which it has yet to mention.

The shipping daily has been the only British paper covering the internal incidents, including the fire at the Al-Jubayl petrochemical plant that raged for nearly a week before being extinguished, and quoted industrial sources Saturday saying there had been sabotage.

It cited further sources Monday that there had been a "sharp increase in security measures" in the eastern province, where the incidents occurred and where, it said, were "many sensitive industrial sites."

United Arab Emirates

Hijacking of Kuwaiti Airliner Condemned

JN121750 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 12 (GNA)—The United Arab Emirates today condemned the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner and praised Kuwait's adamant stand in face of the terrorists.

"The hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner is a heinous act that is rejected by mankind," an official source at the Foreign Ministry said.

"The UAE is proud of the adamant and courageous stand taken by the Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah in face of the terrorists and blackmailers who want to delude the world by their criminal acts and abject provocations."

The source said Kuwait by not yielding to the hijackers' demands has not only benefited itself but the world at large. "Submitting to blackmail will generate more crimes and lead to the continuation of inhuman acts," he said.

"We wonder whether the pirates would have been able to commit their inhuman and unethical act hadn't there been a party backing them and facilitating their crimes," he added.

Iran's Velayati Holds Talks With President

LD121746 Tehran IRNA in English 1733 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a meeting with U.A.E. President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan in Abu Dhabi today, described the recent victories of the Islamic forces at the war-fronts and the crimes of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime in deploying chemical weapons on Halabjah.

The foreign minister emphasized that Islamic Iran is fighting a defensive war and the aggressor ought to be identified and punished in order to establish peace.

Velayati, turning to the Afghan crisis and the heroic resistance of the mujahidin against the occupying Soviet troops, stressed that all Muslim countries are dutybound to assist the Afghan mujahidin.

In response Shaykh Zayid emphasized the importance of sincere friendship among Muslim and neighboring countries and said that such relations are a source of blessing, but enemies are always trying to aggravate discords. "Our responsibility is to strengthen (Islamic) brotherhood and cooperation," he said.

Shaykh Zayid said that it is necessary to have sincere relations with all neighbors in order to counter the enemies' plots, and added "U.A.E. enjoys close ties with Islamic Iran."

Leaves for Qatar

JN121726 Manama WAKH in English 1505 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 12 (GNA)—UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a written message from the Iranian President 'Ali Khame-ne'i dealing with current developments in the region and bilateral relations.

The message was delivered by Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati during a meeting with President Zayid today.

Later, the Iranian minister left for Qatar after a two-day visit to the UAE.

Yemen Arab Republic

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives, Makes Statement

JN121901 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces; and Brother Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, arrived in Sanaa this evening on a visit to our country lasting several days.

In a statement to SABA', 'Arafat expressed his pleasure over the visit, pointing out that he would hold consultations with brother leader Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic and secretary general of the General People's Congress, who is deeply loved and appreciated by the Palestinian people.

He added that the consultations will center on all issues pertaining to the Palestine question and the blessed Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories.

'Arafat also said the visit comes after his visit to the Soviet Union and his participation in the conference of the ICO summit bureau and the chairman of the permanent committees in Kuwait to brief the brother leader on all these current developments in the Palestine question on both Arab and Islamic levels, especially at this particular time in which events are conflicting and attempts are underway to impose solutions on our Arab region—solutions not in the interests of the region's peoples.

Concluding his statement, he stressed the resolutions and principles agreed upon on both Arab and Islamic levels. He was received at the airport by a number of officials, the PLO representative in Sanaa, and a number of revolution cadres.

Saddam Receives Bahraini Prime Minister 12 Apr

JN121952 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of fraternal Bahrain.

During the meeting, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah conveyed to his excellency the president the greetings of His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain.

During the meeting, they also discussed the strong fraternal bilateral relations as well as the Arab situation in general.

Attending the audience between Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, and his excellency the president were Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister; Tariq 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad, Bahraini information minister; Majid Jawad al-Jishi, Bahraini minister of public works, electricity, and water; and Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Muhammad Al Khalifah, chairman of the Central Municipal Organization.

Vice RCC Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and the president's secretary also attended the meeting.

Talks With Bahrain Begin

JN122032 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and the State of Bahrain began here this evening. The Iraqi side was led by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and the Bahraini side was led by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

'Izzat Ibrahim welcomed the fraternal delegation's visit and expressed Iraq's appreciation for Bahrain's stands in support of Iraq in its confrontation of the Iranian aggression. He affirmed that the Iranian aggression is considered the biggest challenge facing the Arab nation throughout its long history because it represents the rancor of the forces of evil in the world led by Zionism and its tool, Israel. He noted that Iraq will remain strong in confronting the Iranian aggression against the Arab nation.

The RCC vice chairman praised the positive results of the Arab summit and the meetings of the Arab foreign ministers and the seven-member committee charged with following up the Iraq-Iran war. He said that these meetings have highlighted Iraq's and the Arab nation's positive stands, calling for truth, peace, and confronting the intransigent Iranian stand rejecting peace—a stand that contradicts with human values.

The Bahraini prime minister praised Iraq's pan-Arab stands on the Arab nation's enemies. He added that Iraq enjoys a special position in the hearts of the Bahraini people. He noted that Iraq's stand is our stand. This was expressed by Bahrain on many Arab and international occasions, he added. The Bahraini prime minister said that our stand at the side of Iraq is clear. This stand stems from our concern for the need to establish good-neighborly relations in the region, he said.

He praised the progress in the fields of construction and science achieved in Iraq during the years of war. His highness expressed hope that the visit will contribute to developing relations between the two fraternal countries.

The talks dealt with relations between Iraq and Bahrain and ways to reinforce them. The two sides also reviewed the developments in the Iraq-Iran war and the current Arab situation.

Attending the talks on the Iraqi side were Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab, Housing and Reconstruction Minister Tahir Muhammad Hassun al-Marzuq, the under secretary of the Culture and Information Ministry, the Baghdad deputy mayor, the chief of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the Iraqi ambassador in Manama.

From the Bahraini side, the talks were attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah; Minister of Information Tariq al-Mu'ayyad; Minister of Public Works, Electricity, and Water Majid al-Jishi; President of the Central Municipal Commission Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Muhammad Al Khalifah; the son of the prime minister, Shaykh Salman ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, and the Bahraini ambassador in Baghdad.

RCC Deputy Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah earlier held a closed meeting.

Mr Ibrahim hosted a dinner banquet tonight in honor of His Royal Highness the Bahraini prime minister and the delegation accompanying him. The dinner was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Sa'dun Shakir and Hasan 'Ali, RCC members; Sa'dun Hammadi, National Assembly speaker; a number of ministers; and the ambassadors of both countries in each country's capital.

President Saddam Telephones Kuwaiti Amir

JN121904 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn telephoned his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, this evening.

During the telephone conversation, his excellency the president reiterated Iraq's solidarity with fraternal Kuwait—amir, government, and people. His excellency the president voiced his deep appreciation of the high degree of courage and wisdom being demonstrated by the amir and the Kuwaiti Government in their confrontation of the attempts made by the enemies to pressure Kuwait, the last of which took the cheap form of hijacking the Kuwaiti airliner.

Concluding his telephone conversation with the Kuwaiti amir, his excellency the president wished the Kuwaiti amir, government, and people continued progress, pride, and prosperity.

Ramadan Receives Message From SFRY Premier

JN1204155388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 12 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has received a written message from Branko Mikulic, president of the Federal Executive Council in the SFRY. Stoyan Andov [name as received], SFRY ambassador in Baghdad, conveyed the message when the first deputy prime minister received him today.

The message deals with cooperation between the two friendly countries and the SFRY's desire to promote relations of friendship and cooperation with Iraq in all fields.

Finance Minister Leaves for Washington Meetings

JN1204165588 Baghdad INA in English 1338 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 11, INA—Iraqi Finance Minister Hakmat 'Umar Mukhaylif today left here for Washington leading a delegation to attend meetings of the tranisitional committee for rectifying the International Monetary System opening there next Thursday.

The week-long committee meetings will tackle reports by the two committees of the big industrialized and developing countries as concern expectations of international economy during next year and role of the International Monetary Fund in extending facilities to the developing countries.

Deputy Minister on Talks With Perez de Cuellar

JN121409 Baghdad INA in English 1328 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] United Nations, April 12, INA—After a meeting with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar last night, Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Wisam al-Zahawi said he once again confirmed Iraq's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598, as it had done in July 1987.

Mr. al-Zahawi said he had submitted a letter to Mr. Perez de Cuellar from Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, re-confirming Iraq's position and his government's readiness to implement Resolution No. 598 in good faith, as it was adopted by the Security Council.

He said he expressed Iraq's "readiness to sit down and negotiate with the Iranians under auspices of the secretary-general, once the Security Council obtains Iran's unequivocal, clear-cut official acceptance of Resolution No. 598."

"As you well know," the Iraqi emissary said, "Iran until this day has not made an officially documented acceptance of the resolution." But, he added that he believed the Security Council was attempting to obtain such acceptance from the Iranian side.

In answer to questions, Mr. al-Zahawi said Mr. Perez de Cuellar did not ask for compromises from the Iraqi side, but "we feel the first step should be a clear acceptance from the Iranians, as nine months have passed since the resolution was adopted."

So far, he added, there has been "no move by the Security Council" to implement paragraph 10 of the resolution which calls for the council to consider further steps to ensure compliance with it. And so far, he noted, "Iran has not accepted the resolution."

Asked if Iraq accepted the secretary-general's outline plan on the steps needed to implement the resolution, Mr. al-Zahawi said that Iraq had accepted the plan as presented last Sept. 16 by the secretary-general, because the plan was in accordance with the provisions of the Security Council resolution, but he declined to give any details on implementation until "we have a clear-cut acceptance from Iran."

Asked if Iraq accepted a modified plan Mr. Perez de Cuellar has reportedly drawn up, the Iraqi emissary said that the talks were not at that stage yet and had not been discussed.

Asked if Iraq still insisted on the sequential implementation of the resolution, he responded that the resolution should be implemented "as it was adopted by the Security Council, the only way to acheive a lasting and durable peace, any other approach would not allow us to reach an end to this war."

Asked if Iraq would resume attacks if this round of talks is not successful, Mr. al-Zahawi replied:

"This has nothing to do with the round of talks. We attack in self-defense. The Iranians continue their attacks on Iraq and continue the war, so we have to exercise our right of defense."

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,130

JN121548 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,130 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 12 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The heroic Al-Husayn Missile Force dealt the following missile strikes to enemy cities today:

1. At 0800 [0400 GMT], the 85th missile strike was dealt to the city of Tabriz using the Al-Husayn missiles.

2. At 1357 today, the Al-Husayn Missile Force carried out the 86th missile strike against the city of Tehran using the Al-Husayn missiles.

3. At 1500 today, the 87th missile strike was carried out against the city of Tabriz using the Al-Husayn missiles.

4. At 1815 today, the 88th missile strike was dealt to the city of Tehran using the Al-Husayn missiles.

May God bless our men in the military industries and the Al-Husayn Missile Force. God be praised for the victory He granted us.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 April 1988

Spokesman on Casualties

JN121723 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi military spokesman announced tonight that Iran has suffered a real disaster in its new failed offensive, which was thwarted by the Iraqi forces in the northern sector.

In a statement to INA tonight, the spokesman said that the losses sustained by the enemy amounted, according to recently confirmed reports, to 6,000 personnel killed or wounded, not to mention large numbers of personnel captured.

The spokesman added that the offensive, which involved the participation of an Iranian force numbering more than 15,000 combatants, was fully torn away. He indicated that the Iranians have not seized one foot of territory. Nay, their war machine used in the region has been totally crushed and large numbers of Iranian personnel were captured, he said.

He went on to say that the Iraqi force that crushed this offensive is the heroic "friendly" [Al-Sadiqah] force, which operates within the Iraqi I Army Corps.

Communique No 3,131

JN121659 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,131 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 12 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our troops' activities for last night and today were as follows:

1. Our daring helicopter gunships carried out 138 combat sorties against enemy troops in the theaters of operations inflicting further losses on the enemy. Having carried out these sorties, they returned safely to base, God be praised.

2. The following losses were inflicted on the enemy in the I Army Corps northern sector:

—Killing 12 scoundrels;

—Burning and destroying 4 vehicles;

—Destroying 3 positions of various types and 2 observation posts;

—Destroying 1 107-mm tubular rocket launcher.

—Burning and destroying 1 shovel [preceding word in English].

3. One enemy soldier was killed and two infantry positions were destroyed in the I Special Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces. Furthermore, eight others were killed and one personnel shelter was destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. Two observation posts were destroyed and one scoundrel was killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. Besides, three infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants were either killed or wounded in the V Army Corps northern sector.

5. One 81-mm mortar and two hovercraft were destroyed and two enemy personnel were killed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris. Also, one infantry position was destroyed and one scoundrel was killed in the VII Army Corps sector.

6. The criminal enemy used long-range artillery to shell residential quarters in the cities of Al-Sulaymaniyah and Qal'at Dizah. The shelling martyred and wounded a number of civilians, including women and children.

The shelling also damaged a number of houses and civilian vehicles. May paradise be the final abode of our martyrs and may swift recovery be the lot of our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 April 1988

Communique No 3,132

JN130623 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0538 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,132 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 13 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God and victory is on the side of Iraq because it is defending its territory, sovereignty, the dignity of its sons, and its right to an honorable life. Iraq is struggling under its great leader Saddam Husayn against the aggression of the barbarians, the backward, the advocates of sedition, and the slaves of Zionism.

O great people, despite its catastrophic losses, the clique of charlatans has not stopped its wishes to achieve some of its outworn ambitions which were overtaken by events. This deluded clique at 0215 on 9-10 April [as heard] sent a force of its scoundrels estimated at more than four brigades in an attempt to attack a number of our border mountain heights in the Panjwin area in the northern sector of operations, which is being defended by our heroic I Army Corps.

Iraq's free men of the heroic Al-Siddiq Forces confronted the enemy force. A battle was waged in which your men from all formations showed rivalry and supported each other to have the honor of defending great Iraq. At 1835 [1435 GMT] yesterday, our forces killed or wounded thousands of enemy scoundrels and captured several of them.

From the four brigades the regime of charlatans pushed into battle only a small group that fled has survived. The situation has completely settled in favor of our valiant forces without allowing the enemy to acheive a single inch of the heights it targeted.

Blessed be our men in the heroic I Army Corps—commanders, officers, and other ranks. Blessed be the zealous men of the heroic Al-Saddiq Forces. Eternal ignominy to the suspect Iranian rulers. Eternal victory on the side of great Iraq under its beloved leader Saddam Husayn. God gives us determination.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 April 1988

Two Missiles Fired at Tehran

JN130930 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0916 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 13 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God's help and the determination of the zealous men in the military industries and the Al-Husayn missile force, at the same time, at 1220 [0820 GMT] today, the 89th and the 90th strikes with Al-Husayn missiles were carried out on the capital of charlatans, Tehran.

Glory to our men in the military industries and our fighters in the Al-Husayn Missile Force. March on.

[Dated] 13 April 1988

Shamir 'Ready' for Peace Talks at Moscow Summit

TA121836 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is ready to visit Moscow during the upcoming summit meeting in May between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev if Jordanian monarch King Husayn is also invited for launching talks between Israel and Jordan. This was stated by informed sources to Me'ir Kohen, our political affairs correspondent.

The prime minister believes that the international opening can be limited to the two superpowers within the framework of the upcoming Moscow summit on the condition that direct talks between Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation begin at once.

Our correspondent adds that Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office, intends to raise this proposal during his meeting with Soviet envoys in London. A source in the prime minister's office noted that Mr Ben-Aharon is currently in London to take part in a meeting with members of the United Jewish Appeal.

Soviets Postpone Paris Meeting With Novik

TA130745 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Apr 88 p 2

[Report by Yosi Melman and Gid'on Kouts]

[Text] The Soviet Union has postponed a meeting scheduled to have taken place between its representatives and a special envoy on behalf of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The meeting was planned for the beginning of next week in Paris and would have involved Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's political adviser, and a junior Soviet diplomat.

The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem could not explain the cancellation of the meeting, noting however that efforts will nevertheless be made to hold it sometime during the week. The foreign minister's political adviser left for Europe to find out the reason for the delay in issuing entry visas for the Israeli consular delegation to Moscow. Contrary to previous promises, the Soviet Union has been withholding the granting of these visas to four members of the Israeli delegation slated to have arrived in the Soviet Union already a month ago.

One of the possible explanations for this delay is that the delegation includes Yasha Kazakov, the first Jew to receive an exit permit from the Soviet Union as far back as 21 years ago, following a prolonged struggle, demonstrations, and protests. He has since changed his name to the Hebrew Ya'aqov Qedmi and works as a Foreign Ministry liaison office employee dealing with the Soviet Jewry issue. Meanwhile, the prime minister's media adviser has denied reports that Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the prime minister's office, left for a separate meeting with Soviet diplomats. Adviser Avi Pazner said these reports are completely unfounded and pointed out that Ben-Aharon left on a United Jewish Appeal lecture tour in London.

Nimrod Novik, the foreign minister's adviser, apparently conferred yesterday in Geneva with Soviet officials. This report has not been officially confirmed.

USSR Seeking Mideast 'Role' Parallel With U.S.

TA101132 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Apr 88 pp 1, 11

[Commentary by Washington correspondent Erol Guiney: "The Soviets Want A Role"]

[Text] Gorbachev's appeal to Yasir 'Arafat to recognize Israel is in line with the USSR's long-standing policy.

The TASS announcement that Gorbachev chose to call on 'Arafat to recognize Israel, and the report that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is planning a shuttle trip to the Middle East, demonstrate, however, that the Soviet Union intends to try to assume a role similar to that of the United States in the Middle East peace process.

Moscow rejects Shultz' proposal to assign the Soviets a secondary role in the peace efforts in our region. It is interested in a role equal at least to that of the United States, and it hopes to attain such a position for itself with the help of its good connections with Syria and the PLO.

The Soviets, however, are aware of the fact that as long as they do not recognize Israel, the PLO remains a disturbing and thwarting element.

Once it recognizes Israel, the PLO would be recognizing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, thus fulfilling the U.S. condition for its participation in an international peace conference.

If the PLO recognized Israel and resolutions 242 and 338, Israel might negotiate with it, and this could dramatically change the whole situation.

There is no doubt that by this call on 'Arafat, Gorbachev wished to refute the U.S. criticism of Moscow as not playing a constructive part in the Middle East.

Following the TASS announcement and the agreement reached on the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, the door is open to wider cooperation between the superpowers in the Middle East, a cooperation which may crystallize in the upcoming meeting between Shultz and Shevardnadze in Geneva, where they will sign the Afghanistan agreement, and even more so in the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Moscow at the end of May.

Peres Calls Husayn 'Only Hope for Peace'

TA101108 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Apr 88 p 1

[Report by Shlomo Naqdimon]

[Text] "You are the only hope for peace," Shim'on Peres wrote to King Husayn in a letter delivered last week.

Peres asked the king to say an explicit "yes" to Shultz' plan, based on his belief that such a positive reply would have a dramatic effect on the plan's opponents in Israel.

A feeling of despair and disappointment may be detected in Peres' letter, in which he describes in very gloomy words what might happen once the plan is rejected. An ominous tone is also evident: If the King does not assume leadership, the area will deteriorate into war.

In comparison to the long message (filling 6 pages) that Peres delivered to Husayn, Shamir sent a concise document of 6 lines clarifying his position. In the document, Shamir rejects any possibility of an international conference and demands direct negotiations.

Shamir on Jordanian Designs for Peace Talks

TA121804 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by unidentified correspondent in Mizpe Ramon on 12 April—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Correspondent] What is your reaction to the fact that Jordan is attempting to diminish its role in possible direct Israeli-Jordanian negotiations?

[Shamir] I do not view all the reports published day in and day out as serious, stable, or permanent. Once we arrive at the negotiations, if we do, then we will hear exactly what they have to say. Only then will we be able to address them.

[Correspondent] Nevertheless, we have heard from our neighbors to the east that the issue has been limited to 20 sq km not far from here. Is this an indication of their readiness to give up Judaea and Samaria?

[Shamir] It is not. They have not given up their demand that we leave this area. This is what we have always said: Their objectives are usually negative, namely to push us away, to force us to withdraw. They are not as interested in gaining something positive for themselves as they are in desiring evil for us. This is the usual trend seen in the Arab political philosophy.

[Correspondent] What about the Palestinian representatives who will participate in the negotiations when the time comes? Will they not take the initiative and talk about territory?

[Shamir] I would not like to prophesy. When serious negotiations take place, we will hear all these comments and be able to reach conclusions in accordance with our goals.

Jordan's Territorial Demand Only 'Trial Balloon'

TA131208 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Apr 88 p A3

[Report by 'Oded Granot]

[Text] Senior sources in Israel's political and defense establishment last night reacted with complete surprise upon hearing the Jordanian demand for the return of Israeli-held territory along Israel's eastern border. They maintain that although the area in question is small, the Jordanians never raised similar demands in the clandestine contacts that preceded the conclusion of the London accord between Peres and Husayn. They have likewise not made such demands in the contacts held prior to Shultz' shuttle trip in the Middle East. In both frameworks of talks, the issues that were discussed were primarily ways to launch the process of peace negotiations by way of convoking an international conference, and the composition of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Why, then, did a "most senior Jordanian source" see fit to leak to a Radio Monte Carlo correspondent the report that Jordan plans to discuss only one issue in the conference, and that is the return of 25 square km to Jordanian sovereignty?

Political sources in Jerusalem last night offered two explanations for this:

—A "positive" explanation, according to which the Jordanian announcement should not be perceived as a a sign of intransigence on the part of Amman but as a signal from King Husayn to the PLO. The Jordanians are saying in effect: If we do not reach an agreement on the establishment of a joint delegation to the conference, we may participate in such a conference even without the PLO. After all, Jordan can discuss other matters besides Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip with Israel.

The purpose of this signal-cum-threat is to force the PLO to realize that if it fails to jump on the bandwagon soon, Jordan and Israel may engage in a mechanism of talks that would admittedly begin with negotiations on problems along Israel's eastern border, but may expand to also include a discussion of the territories. These talks will include Palestinians from the territories who are not PLO members.

—As against this "positive" explanation, many people in Jerusalem last night expressed their conviction that there is a "negative" explanation for this move. In essence, it means that Jordan has despaired of the chance to revive the peace process at this stage and has given up the effort to hold talks with the PLO on joint participation in the international conference.

According to this explanation, which is in line with the declaration Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i made to AP 2 days ago, the Jordanian announcement signals to the United States and Israel that under the present circumstances—namely in view of the unrest in the territories, the opposition of half the Israeli Government to an international conference, and Syrian pressure—there is no longer any point in banking on the "Jordanian option" because Amman has decided to to have nothing more to do with Judaea and Samaria matters.

As will be recalled, this line, which advocates a separation from Judaea and Samaria issues, is supported by senior members of the Jordanian royal court.

At the same time, it should be borne in mind that although the leak from Amman originated from a most senior Jordanian source, that source still remains unidentified.

The most likely explanation for this is that it is a Jordanian "trial balloon" aimed at allowing the king to sound out reaction to his demand from the PLO, Israel, and the United States and assess it himself before he decides whether or not to repeat it in public as well.

Rabin Calls on Arab States To End 'Belligerency'

TA130621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the Palestinians and the Arab states, other than Egypt, must realize that they will achieve nothing through violence and belligerency. Rabin was speaking last night to a banquet in the Knesset for hundreds of delegates from abroad who are attending the Second International Christian Zionist Congress.

[Begin Rabin recording] That for their own sake it's better that they stop war, terror, and violence; sit around the negotiations—and there is a proof that whenever there was an Arab leader who wanted it, peace was achieved. Therefore, it's not a dream. It can be a reality. But at the same time, if they choose belligerency, terror, and violence it's they that will suffer. We will never budge. We are determined to do whatever is needed within the framework of our laws to cope with any form of violence that it's purpose is political achievement that will undermine, or potentially will undermine, our existence, our freedom, our way of life. [end recording]

3 'Terrorists' Killed in Border Clash With IDF

TA130853 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Three terrorists were killed in a clash with an IDF force this morning. The incident occurred on the western slopes of Har Dov, near the border fence between Israel and Lebanon. Our forces suffered no casualties.

After they were spotted by the IDF, the members of the terrorist squad tried to flee. The soldiers on the patrol tracked down the squad and launched an attack. As said, the three terrorists were killed by our forces' fire and there were no casualties among our soldiers.

The terrorists were found to have been in the possession of personal weapons, M-16 rifles, four LAW [light anti-tank weapons] rockets, and hand grenades. They were on their way to carry out an attack against Israeli civilians in order to exchange hostages for the release of imprisoned terrorists.

Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports that soldiers from the Giv'ati Brigade found and killed the terrorists. The skirmish took place very close to the spot where members of another terrorist squad were killed a few days ago.

27 Drug Dealers Apprehended in Security Zone

TA130501 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Last night the Galilee District Police, assisted by the border police, arrested 27 drug dealers and seized hundreds of heroin doses. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the police searches included Nahariyya, 'Akko, Shefar'am, and several other Arab settlements in the Galilee. Last night's raid was the second stage of an operation launched 2 days ago by the Galilee Police and the IDF to apprehend drug dealers in the security zone in South Lebanon.

Herzog, Peled Confer With Lahd in S. Lebanon

TA101344 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] President Hayim Herzog conferred with South Lebanese Army [SLA] Commander General Antoine Lahd today. The meeting was also attended by Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command. President Herzog told our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz that the deployment of SLA soldiers in the security strip has proved to be a major success.

Ministers To Attend Warsaw Uprising Anniversary

TA111738 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Education Minister Yitzhaq Navon and Tourism and Justice Minister Avraham Sharir have left for Poland today to represent Israel in the events commemorating the 45th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Simcha Dinitz, the head of the Jewish Agency, also left with them. El Al will transport thousands of Israelis and Jews from all over the world to attend the ceremonies.

Colombia Announces Purchase of Kfir Aircraft

TA121352 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Israel will purchase 500,000 metric tons of coal a year from Columbia for the next 4 years. An agreement to this effect was signed this morning in Bogota by Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal and his Colombian counterpart. Our correspondent Elihu Ben-On reports that upon Minister Shahal's arrival, the local government announced the impending purchase of Kfir aircraft and additional military equipment from Israel to the tune of $250 million.

Peres: No Sovereignty Over Jordan Rift Valley

TA121540 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Report by Mikha'el Birenhack]

[Text] At the end of a tour of the Jordan Rift Valley today, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres was the guest of Ma'ale Efrayim. The settlers minced no words in presenting their questions and complaints: We feel there is no security, no absorption of new settlers, no development. Everything is regressing. Hayim Aviv, the local council head and a Tehiya member, said: The problem is our uncertainty with respect to the future. Peres responded: We will not apply Israeli sovereignty over the Jordan Rift Valley.

[Begin Peres recording] Let me ask you, too: Do you want us to seek peace or not? I, for one, represent at least the Labor Party members, and I hope others, too. What do you want? Do you want us to try to open the door to peace or not? Would you rather that we let the situation dictate our future? The situation is not something with which you are unfamiliar. The problem facing the State of Israel is not one of territories, it is one of population. [end recording]

At the end of his visit, Peres returned to Jerusalem. The settlers' children asked him: How was your trip? He answered: It was nice; and no, they did not throw stones at our party.

Tzomet Party Outlines Population Exchange Plan

TA100714 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Apr p 4

[Report by Mikhal Yudelman]

[Text] Palestinian refugees would be resettled in Arab countries, and Jews still in those countries would come to Israel, according to the platform of the Tzomet Party, which was distributed at a meeting of its young guard yesterday. Tzomet is headed by former chief of General Staff MK [Knesset member] Refa'el Eytan.

After the assumed annexation of the West Bank, its Arab population would remain Jordanian citizens, and Gaza's Arabs would either become Jordanian citizens or retain their present status after Gaza is annexed to Israel, the platform says.

"It is less dangerous to hold the territories and deal with their population than to give away the land with the population, because he who holds the land, dominates Israel," Eytan told the few dozen youngsters who attended the meeting.

He said the Likud and the Alignment were equally dangerous, because they keep looking for solutions, instead of saying, "We're out of solutions." "Tzomet has no solutions. If the Arabs don't like it, let them go away. The Arabs don't need or want autonomy nor could they handle it," he said. "According to the American and Egyptian interpretation, autonomy means a Palestinian state. If anyone ever agrees to autonomy we're lost, we'll lose everything," he added.

Tzomet activist Eli'ezer Golan told the meeting that population exchanges are inevitable.

Guest speaker Tzvi Shilo'ah, one of the founders of Tehiya, said that transfer is a "solution with practical implications" for the demographic problem, which he called Israel's number one problem. Any alternative, he added, would lead to the demise of Israel.

The Shultz initiative, Raful told reporters, is no different from the Reagan initiative, the Rogers Plan, or the partition plan. "That's what the Americans know and are trying to achieve. The Shultz initiative means ruin with the imprimatur of the U.S. I would have told Shultz straight to his face, we'll give peace, let the Arabs give territories. Now let the Arabs come and go with proposals and solutions. But to say that, you need leadership," Raful declared.

Aluf Mishne (Colonel resf.) Gid'on Shuller called Education Minister Yitzhaq Navon "a quisling," and said the heads of the educational system were collaborating with the enemies.

Rabin Queried on Violence, 'Iron Fist Policy'

PM111220 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian
5 Apr 88 p 3

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Guido Barendson in Tel Aviv; date not given]

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv—[Passage omitted] [Barendson] Are you afraid that the economic and military squeeze you have used to respond to the civil disobedience campaign promoted by the PLO will ultimately cause a radicalization of the conflict?

[Rabin] Not at all. Our measures are working and in the past 3-4 weeks there has been much less violence on their part.

[Barendson] Actually last week was the most violent since the protests began. Last Saturday your troops killed six Palestinians.

[Rabin] It depends on what kind of violence you are talking about. If the yardstick is the number of Palestinians killed, then you are right.

My reasoning is different, however: I note that in most cases we have intervened first, managing to block the instigators of violence. In other words, we are now taking the initiative, instead of following it. Therefore I would say that the violence has diminished sharply.

[Barendson] Does "taking the initiative" mean carrying out preventive actions?

[Rabin] I will give you an example: The Palestinians intended to turn "Land Day" into a major success but we forestalled them and took them by surprise by introducing a curfew in Gaza and isolating roads in various parts of the West Bank.

[Barendson] Do you mean that your men will be doing more and more shooting?

[Rabin] No, I mean that during those 3 days of isolation in Gaza nobody died—unlike Saturday, when we lifted the restrictions.

[Barendson] Will you be isolating Gaza and the West Bank again?

[Rabin] It has proved an effective weapon and we could use it in the future, even for longer periods.

[Barendson] Is there no political solution?

[Rabin] There is a way, and this is a peace treaty with Jordan—a treaty embodying a solution to the Palestinian problem and defining the permanent status of the territories currently administered by Israel. I see no contradiction between tackling the violence and seeking an understanding. Are you surprised? Look, I am not opposed to a territorial compromise and I would like to give a positive response to the U.S. initiative, but I consider it essential to show the Palestinians, the Arabs, the whole world that these people will achieve nothing through violence.

[Barendson] If 'Arafat were sitting here with you what would you say to him?

[Rabin] Nobody in Israel intends to negotiate with the PLO. I therefore have in mind a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation including Palestinian residents in the territories. However, let there be no talk about a third, Palestinian, state between Israel and Jordan. I am opposed to a withdrawal to the 1967 borders, though I approve of the principle of exchanging "territories for peace." The principle is fine, but not for all the territories.

[Barendson] Do you not believe that the iron fist policy is causing you to lose the sympathy of the moderate Palestinians that could be your only "internal" interlocutors?

[Rabin] Yes, the moderate Palestinians—but they are in hiding, awaiting a change of climate.

[Barendson] How do you, as a soldier par excellence, feel, having to lead troops as though they were policemen?

[Rabin] The armed forces must, first and foremost, serve the country's vital interests, defend it against the Arab countries, and combat terrorism. But they also have a duty to intervene whenever violence breaks out in the territories controlled by the military authorities, unfortunately. I am not saying we like this, and for that matter we are not enthusiastic about the idea of fighting wars that we will win either.

[Barendson] In 2 hours' time you will be having breakfast will George Shultz. Your prime minister, Shamir, has said repeatedly that he is opposed to the secretary of state's plan. What do you expect from Shultz' visit?

[Rabin] I would rather not express any assessment on whatever the prime minister may have said or may say. I will explain to Shultz my viewpoint on the territories and other issues of strategic importance to Israel's defense. As for rejecting, accepting, or not passing judgment on the U.S. plan, the government remains split. We Laborites accept the initiative in principle, while the Likud party does not accept it. Do not ask me anything more about the next 2 days.

[Barendson] Shamir said a few hours ago that it is the country that will respond to the Reagan administration's proposals, implying that there will be an early election.

[Rabin] Undoubtedly the issue of how to achieve peace and a stable arrangement in the territories will be a central issue in the next election. I hope we Laborites will win.

[Barendson] Under the next government will there be a change in how the Palestinian issue is handled?

[Rabin] I will do my utmost to ensure that it does change, in accordance with the ground rules of Western democracy. I believe that, leaving political alignment aside, there is a profound awareness in Israel of the need to establish calm. False information is being spread abroad. I receive vast numbers of telephone calls from foreign journalists asking me to comment on the defection of military personnel who supposedly refuse to go to Gaza and the West Bank. Well, they should know that out of 10,000 reserves only one refused to go!

[Barendson] How do you reply to those who claim that Israel's democracy is in jeopardy?

[Rabin] I reply that they are wrong. I can understand the reactions and feelings prompted by a photograph of a clash between civilians involved in violent actions and our men. I can understand that this is not a pleasant picture. However, it is necessary to look beyond this. Who wants this violence? Who is offering negotiations?

[Barendson] Frankly it does not seem to me that your government is proposing either negotiations or political solutions.

[Rabin] Do you know of a single Arab country that has accepted the Shultz plan? We, however, together with Egypt, have shown in past years that if an Arab country seeks peace we are always ready to meet it half way. Moreover, I assure you that here we are not fighting like the British in Ireland. Allow me to say that in many European countries there are minorities that aspire to the right to self-determination and I am not so sure that those countries' governments are so willing to yield to such demands. [passage omitted]

Settlement Leaders Give 'Demands' to Rabin

TA121339 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Apr 88 p 1

[Report by Uri'el Ben-'Ami and Tova Tzimuqi]

[Excerpt] Settlement leaders last night presented Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir with a document composed by Elyaqim Ha'etzni containing many demands for expulsions and demolitions of houses.

To keep Elyaqim Ha'etzni from being viewed as an extremist, Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Strip settlement leaders decided to keep secret the fact that it was he who composed the document.

Among the demands presented in the document are: the deportation of AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah, Mustafa al-Natshah of Hebron, and Mubarak 'Awwad, against whom a deportation order has already been extended but not implemented.

In the "Ha'etzni document" the settlement leaders also demanded the closure of East Jerusalem newspapers and other PLO papers, the entry of IDF forces into Arab villages in Judaea and Samaria that blockaded themselves and declared their independence, as well as the closure of Raymonda Tawil's PALESTINE PRESS SERVICE. The document also demands the destruction of all Arab houses in Judaea and Samaria built without a license.

Settlement leaders in Judaea and Samaria met Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday in his office. The meeting took place after the expulsion decision was taken, in order to avoid the impression that the defense minister expelled the eight terrorists under pressure from the settlers. The settlement leaders claimed that the defense minister agreed with them that he will expand the use of punitive expulsions on the condition that it would be kept secret. Still, they complained to him that the IDF investigation was leaked before it was completed.

The meeting was also attended by the Chief of Staff Dan Shomron and 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command. During the meeting the defense minister reprimanded the settlement leaders for their attack on the IDF.

After the meeting Beni Katzover, head of the Shomron local council, and Aharon Nahman from Ari'el tried to draft a joint announcement with Eytan Hadar, an adviser to the defense minister, but they failed to reach agreement and an announcement was not issued. Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlement leaders declared that they would continue their sit-in across from the prime minister's residence, but a dispute broke out between the local council heads when several called for an end to the sit-in out of concern that it would only harm them. [passage omitted]

Shomron Responds to Criticism in Knesset of IDF

TA121533 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Report from the Knesset by Yaron Deqel]

[Excerpts] In its session today, the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee naturally discussed the bloody incident in Bayta and its aftermath. At the outset of the meeting, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron spoke on the incident. He said: We will not present the report on the incident before it is completed and finalized. All the children who were on the tour have been questioned. The evidence is being collected, and anyone expecting surprises is bound to be disappointed, Gen Shomron said. He referred to the criticism leveled at him personally and at the IDF as a whole. I do not understand the criticism of the IDF and myself and the attempt to discredit the IDF report by way of holding a news conference with children.

Later, but still speaking in the context of the IDF's investigatory methods and the criticism of them, the chief of staff added: I sincerely hope we will not reach a state of affairs in which we are forced to carry out lie detector tests.

As for yesterday's deportation of the eight inhabitants of the territories, the chief of staff pointed out that the date for their expulsion had been decided upon a long time ago. He also discussed the demolition of the houses in Bayta and said: It was obvious that we needed to react quickly. A group of children was attacked, and this warranted a sharp reaction.

The members of the committee argued, as usual, and differed in their views. Knesset Member [MK] Ehud Olmert criticized the chief of staff for appearing on television before knowing all the facts. This criticism was seconded by MK Hayim Druckman of the National Religious Party. MK Shevah Weiss said: The IDF is the army of the whole nation. Under no circumstances should it be undermined. MK David Magen said that the IDF's reaction to the incident in the village, namely the deportations and the demolition of houses, is praiseworthy. Pinhas Goldstein also welcomed the continued IDF policy of expulsions, but pointed out that he repudiates those who feel that it was the settlers' pressure that led to this policy of deportations. The Citizens Rights Movement's MK, Yosi Sarid, held a different view. He believes that the IDF has taken rash measures due to pressure from politicians and threats by the settlers. MK Mikha Harish, who presided over the session, has been authorized to issue a statement of support for the IDF. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, after having heard expressions of praise and criticism, the chief of staff said: The IDF represents the government's policy. The IDF must not, under any circumstances, be used as a vehicle to criticize the government. Over the past 4 months I have tried to make sure that the IDF remains an army of consensus as the people's army, always ready to serve the government and operating within the confines of the law. In the absence of all this, the IDF will cease to exist as such. So please exercise caution when criticizing the IDF, the chief of staff concluded at the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session.

Shamir Says Criticism of IDF Not Forbidden

TA121759 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that the IDF must not become a topic for political debate, but it can definitely be criticized.

[Begin Shamir recording] There is no need or justification to present things as some sort of dramatic confrontation. On the whole, everyone—all the citizens of this country, and certainly its Jewish citizens—realize that the army is entrusted with the job of maintaining security throughout Eretz Yisra'el. No one disputes this. Everything must be done to keep the IDF out of the range of subjects over which political debates or arguments are held. At the same time, of course, this does not mean that it is forbidden to utter a word of criticism of it. First of all, the IDF and those at its head must make sure that they are not involved in political disputes. This is usually the case and the IDF is, by and large, careful to stay out of political arguments. I think this will continue in the future, too. [end recording]

The prime minister was speaking with our correspondent in the south Sheli Yehimovitch.

Sharon Says Jerusalem 'Center of PLO Activism'

TA130444 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Trade and Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon says Jerusalem has become one of the main centers of PLO activism during the disturbances in the territories. Sharon spoke to reporter Shlomo Berger during a tour of the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, where he met with Jewish merchants:

[Begin recording] [Berger] Minister Sharon said the deportation of Palestinian agitators is an effective way of dealing with the unrest and a step which should have been taken much sooner. He also disclosed that Jerusalem had become a main center for PLO activism.

[Sharon] And one must understand that those riots that sometimes become pogroms are a result of the activity of the political arm of the PLO, which acts mostly now from Jerusalem. That's one of the main centers.

[Berger] Sharon toured the area at the invitation of the Jewish Quarter Merchants and Artists Organization. Before meeting the group's representatives, Sharon explained why he had come to the quarter:

[Sharon] The purpose of my visit to the Old City of Jerusalem is to try to make an effort to strengthen the Jewish community that lives within the walls in the Old City of Jerusalem, to bring back the activity—commercial activity, trade activity, visits of tourists that so many of them wish to visit the place here.

[Berger] The merchants and artists told Sharon that they had suffered financially since disturbances in the territories began due to the sharp decrease in tourists as well as Israeli visitors. Sharon promised to work toward lowering municipal taxes, as well as to encourage the government to offer incentives for settling more Jews in the quarter. Said Sharon: Jerusalem is the heart of the Jewish people. If it doesn't remain in Jewish hands, nothing will. [end recording]

Deportations Seen as 'New Deterrent Policy'

TA121435 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Apr 88 pp 1, 11

[Analysis by Ron Ben-Yishay: "A New Deterrent and a Response to Pressure"]

[Text] The deportation of the eight to Lebanon and the twelve new expulsion orders issued yesterday are another aspect of the relatively new deterrent policy.

The new policy was decided on several weeks ago, prior to Land Day, and it is now being implemented stage by stage.

Other aspects of the deterrent policy are mass arrests and preventive measures by IDF forces upon learning about disturbances, even if only minor ones. Therefore, the claim by the Defense Ministry spokesman that the expulsion of the eight was decided on some time ago, but that implementation was postponed so as not to harm the visits by Shultz and Shamir to each other's countries, can be believed.

The list of candidates for deportation includes "representatives" of almost all organizations and political streams participating in the Intifadha [uprising], and is also evidence that deterrence is the main message of yesterday's step. But the 12 expulsion orders issued yesterday are clearly linked to the incident in Bayta, and also to political pressures and charges leveled at the defense minister that he is not taking tough enough measures against the rioters.

It may be supposed that Rabin would have proposed deporting them even without the incident in Bayta, but in such case the number of deportees would have been much smaller—and that is legitimate in a democratic system. But extensive deportations might also have two negative results: one, that the deterrent effect of the expulsion will lose its power; the other, that mass deportations might heat up the situation further, similar to what it was at the start of the uprising in the territories.

As may be recalled, the second wave of the uprising in the territories began on 4 January—the day after the defense establishment issued deportation orders against nine inhabitants of the territories.

If the steps taken yesterday do not arouse a large wave of disturbances, they could be seen as another sign that the Intifadha is waning or at least losing some of its steam. But even then it does not mean that the uprising in the territories is over. It will only take on another form: that of short and violent outbursts with short periods of quiet in between.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Jabalyah, Al-Shati' Riots

TA121722 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Many people were wounded during operations to restore order in the Jabalyah and Al-Shati' refugee camps in the Gaza Strip after serious riots there. The IDF spokesman said 10 local people were wounded by beatings; five of them were hospitalized. Ten people were hurt by tear gas and were released after being treated. One person was shot and four others were wounded by rubber bullets. The five were hospitalized locally.

The IDF imposed a curfew on the Al-Shati' refugee camp after the disturbances.

25 Wounded in Gaza Riots

TA121841 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] In disturbances in the Gaza Strip, a 12-year-old boy from the Jabalyah refugee camp sustained leg injuries caused by IDF gunfire. Twenty five inhabitants of the Gaza Strip were admitted to Al-Shifa' and Al-Ahali Hospitals. Most of them were hurt by tear gas, while others were injured by rubber bullets used by IDF soldiers to disperse riots throughout the Gaza Strip.

Our correspondent Asaf Ashkenazi reports that the centers of the rioting were the Jabalyah and Al-Shati' refugee camps.

'Hundreds' Attack IDF

TA122020 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Dozens of inhabitants of towns in the Gaza Strip were wounded by the IDF in a wave of serious riots. In Jabalyah, hundreds of residents attacked an IDF force with bottles and stones. The soldiers fired in the direction of the rioters, first using tear gas and rubber bullets and then live ammunition. Dozens of inhabitants were wounded and required treatment, and a 12-year-old boy was wounded in the leg and hospitalized.

Dozens were also wounded in the Al-Shati' refugee camp in similar circumstances. It was reported that among other measures, the IDF used a helicopter to disperse demonstrators, firing tear gas grenades and gravel from the air. A curfew was imposed on the Al-Shati' camp.

Details on 12 Apr Incidents

TA130804 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Apr 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Bradley Burston and Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] Dozens of Palestinians were wounded yesterday when widespread rioting erupted throughout the Gaza Strip in response to the expulsion of five residents of the area. The unrest centred on areas near the deportees' homes.

Lawyers for 12 Palestinians who received deportation orders said yesterday they would appeal the expulsions before military review boards.

In the Al-Shati' refugee camp, home of deported Islamic fundamentalist leader Khalil Kuka, violent disturbances began in the early morning, as hundreds of Palestinian flags were affixed to electric lines and mosques.

IDF troops dispersed crowds of demonstrators, using tear gas, smoke grenades, rubber bullets and a gravel cannon. Gravel and tear gas canisters were also dumped from a helicopter. A curfew was clamped on the camp.

Among those reportedly struck by rubber bullets was TIME magazine photographer David Rubinger, hit in the lower back while visiting the camp with UNRWA officials.

Disturbances were also reported in several Gaza neighbourhoods, as well as in Dayr al-Balah, Al-Nusayrat, Al Burayj, Jabalyah and other areas. Doctors at Gaza's Al-Shifa' Hospital reported that 42 persons injured by beating, tear gas, and rubber bullets were admitted yesterday.

IDF authorities are investigating UNRWA claims that at the entrance to the Al-Shati' camp yesterday, Israeli troops beat a dozen boys after forcing them to strip.

Dozens were injured at the Jabalyah refugee camp, when troops used tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition to break up large crowds that attacked an army outpost. A 12-year-old boy, Ra'id Rashid, was shot and wounded.

In Rafah, meanwhile, four of the nine board members of the local municipality announced their resignation yesterday. [passage omitted]

Fewer incidents were reported yesterday in the West Bank, though at least two Palestinians were wounded in incidents near Nabulus.

Military sources said a bus carrying soldiers was blocked by a rock barricade at Asirah al-Shamaliyah. Villagers hurled rocks at the vehicle and at troops who rushed to the scene, and an IDF officer was hurt. Troops opened fire, wounding two villagers. Palestinian sources said three persons were wounded.

The Palestinian souces reported two other incidents, which could not be confirmed by the IDF. According to the sources, an Israeli bus was stoned on the main street of Nabulus, and settlers got off and blocked traffic before they were dispersed by troops. The sources said reports of the arrival of settlers set off "protests" in the old city of Nabulus, where there were clashes with troops.

The Palestinian sources also reported extensive clashes yesterday at Talluza, near Nabulus, where they said two Israeli buses had been stoned. They said that on Monday villagers attacked a car carrying suspected "collaborators," seized the Israeli-issued gun of one of the men and turned it over to the local mukhtar. [passage omitted]

2 Wounded in Nabulus

TA121807 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] In an incident in the Nabulus area, two local residents were hurt by IDF gunfire and an IDF officer was slightly wounded by a stone.

Gaza Refugee Camps Blockaded

TA131010 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] A blockade has been imposed on the Jabalyah, Al-Nusayrat, and Khan Yunus refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. The curfew imposed on the Al-Shati' refugee camp remains in effect. So far, there have been no reports of any noteworthy incidents in the territories.

Merchants Ask To Open

TA121458 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Report by 'Eran Ben-Porat]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Several Hebron merchants who have stalls in the wholesale market have again appealed to the Civilian Administration with a request to be permitted to open their businesses during the afternoon hours. This request is being examined.

Meanwhile, the Civilian Administration today resumed activity to reunite families in the territories. Today, in Bethlehem, a ceremony was held on the occasion of the reunification of eight families residing in the district. They had submitted their request for reunification some time ago, and their request was granted today.

The Civilian Administration has reported that there is accelerated activity now after a certain setback in Civilian Administration operations during the the events of the past few months. It has also been reported that contacts with the Arab population are being increased again. A case in point is Bethlehem, where a meeting was held today between the governor of the district and local residents in an effort to deepen understanding between the two sides.

Ansar-3 Detention Camp Expanded

*TA100958 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
10 Apr 88 p A4*

[Report by Uri Binder]

[Text] The defense establishment recently decided to expand the Ohalot detention camp, known as Ansar-3, in Qezi'ot. Work is already under way in the camp.

The IDF allowed Red Cross personnel to tour the camp following complaints by relatives of the detainees about tough conditions. Inmates told them conditions are better than at the Al-Zahiriyah detention camp.

Security sources pointed out that the lock-up facility in Qezi'ot provides better conditions for the detainees and even for their interrogators, who have so far suffered from the lack of proper conditions to speak with the numerous detainees who have been concentrated in temporary detention facilities in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Reservists Issued Jail Terms

*TA130413 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 13 Apr 88*

[Text] Two Army reservists who refused to serve in the territories have been sentenced to jail terms of 35 days each. Our reporter says 10 reservists have refused to serve in the territories since the disturbances began 4 months ago. Four of them are currently serving prison terms.

Arab Mayors' 'Mail Threats'

*TA131046 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 13 Apr 88*

[Excerpt] Palestinian activists have stepped up efforts to pressure Arab mayors in the territories to resign. Several Arab mayors have received mail threats to leave their posts immediately. Steve Rodan has more:

Arab mayors in the territories have long been under pressure to resign, but this morning the pressure increased. Several Arab mayors have received letters calling on them to resign immediately, or else face an unspecified punishment. The letter was signed: The Palestinian Uprising Committee, the Military Arm. Security officials say that until now the mayors have held up under pressure, but there is no telling what they will do in the wake of these threats. The aim of those behind the threats is to force the mayors to resign and to replace them with committees appointed by the leaders of the Palestinian unrest. [passage omitted]

Ban on Arab Press Distribution

*TA131058 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 13 Apr 88*

[Text] The Government Press Office [GPO] in Jerusalem has now prohibited East Jerusalem Arab publications or press releases from being distributed to journalists with GPO boxes. Reporter Steve Rodan says the step is part of a new policy by the GPO Director Yoram Ettinger. The aim is to prevent more pro-PLO propaganda from being distributed through the GPO, which distributes daily dozens of official announcements, schedules, and translations of articles from the Hebrew press.

In the past few days, a newsletter from the Arabic daily AL-FAJR, as well as a pamphlet from the leftist magazine DEREKH HANITZOTZ, have been removed. AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah has already been informed of the new policy.

Ya'aqobi Assesses Economic Damages From Unrest

*TA111142 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 11 Apr 88 p 23*

[Report by Gad Li'or]

[Text] Economic and Communications Minister Gad Ya'aqobi's statement that the uprising in the territories has already directly caused Israel economic damage estimated at over 0.5 billion shekels sparked a public debate which is still going on.

In the wake of Treasury and Bank of Israel officials' remarks that "all the reports on serious damage to the Israeli economy are imaginary," Minister Ya'aqobi told me, in reply to my question, that not only does he stand by his initial statement but that, having done some more calculations, he now estimates the damage from 4 months of rioting at 650 million shekels.

Minister Ya'aqobi: "First of all, the Bank of Israel's interim report confirms that the Israeli economy has already suffered some damage as a result of the events in the territories, and that further damage is expected. One must be blind to ignore the developments and the additional hundreds of millions of shekels which the defense minister is requesting and the millions the minister of police is demanding as a result of the events in the territories."

The data, according to the economy minister:

Israel's exports to the territories have dropped by 50 percent. No one is refuting this figure. With annual exports standing at $1.15 billion and with the riots going on for 4 months, the damage under this clause amounts to $235 million or approximately 380 million shekels.

Additional defense expenses: 100 million shekels (25 million shekels per month)

Additional police expenses: 40 million shekels (10 million per month)

Decreased productivity: the Solel Boneh [major construction company] director general has pointed to a drop of 20 to 25 percent in productivity, resulting from a decrease in the number of Arab construction workers from the territories. After 4 months of unrest, therefore, the estimated damage has reached $100 million, or 160 million shekels.

Minister Ya'aqobi adds: "This estimate is still an understatement. We should add the damage to our exports, the cancellation of Israel's participation in foreign trade fairs, and the EEC's failure to ratify the trade agreement. This would amount to an annual sum of at least $50 million, which equals 80 million shekels a year and almost 30 million shekels in 4 months."

Reliance on Outside Forces Termed 'Illusory'

TA110837 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
7 Apr 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Shultz, the Truth, and Political Priorities"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is returning to his country today following a round of talks with leaders of Middle East states on his particular plan for achieving a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

We do not intend to enter into an argument about what the U.S. secretary did or did not achieve. This is a matter that concerns George Shultz and U.S. diplomacy. We wish to talk, however, about an aspect that concerns us, we who are suffering under the occupation.

It has been proved beyond any doubt that the hopes pinned on outside forces to achieve freedom and the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people are no more than illusory. It has become apparent to the Palestinians, therefore, that they have no alternative but to take the initiative and turn their uprising into a political momentum forcing Israel and all outside parties to bring about a just peace in this region.

The Palestinians tried, for a long time, to depend on others. What has been the result? They have lost their homeland, they have been displaced, and they have incurred the Israeli occupation.

Therefore, the lesson that the Palestinians must learn is to discard dependence on others from their political strategy. This is a first step in beginning to deal with the available options that might liberate them from occupation and save their identity.

We appreciate the efforts exerted by others, but these efforts must not substitute for the major Palestinian role which should address the challenges facing our people in a spirit of reality and frankness, divorced from ineffective emotions and slogans.

Shultz has returned to his country, but regardless of whether he did fail or almost failed, we ourselves are still facing the occupation and are under its control. This is a reality from which no one is suffering except those living in the occupied territories.

Recounting the truth is not so important as converting it into a political priority.

Polls Show Changes in Leaders' Popularity

MA'ARIV Poll

TA071404 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
7 Apr p A6

[Text] Peres' popularity as the man best suited for the post of prime minister continues to drop while Shamir's has risen significantly. The popularity of Sharon and Rabin has risen slightly. The uncertainty about the situation in the territories which affected evaluations in January, does not exist any more. Only 13 percent say they have no candidate suitable for the post of prime minister. These are the findings of a poll conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi Research Institute directed by Dr Mikha Hopp.

The poll was conducted during the second half of March, some 3 months after the beginning of the uprising in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The following questions were posed to the participants: In your opinion who is best suited to serve as prime minister, defense minister, finance minister, and foreign minister? (All figures are quoted in percentage points.)

The man best suited to be prime minister

	Mar 88	Jan 88	Nov 87
Peres	35.4	37.7	42.7
Shamir	27.3	17.0	18.0
Sharon	6.8	6.2	4.7
Rabin	5.0	4.3	3.1
Others	12.2	12.0	15.9
No candidate	13.3	22.8	15.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

The man best suited to be defense minister

	Mar 88	Jan 88	Nov 87
Rabin	42.5	45.6	49.2
Sharon	25.5	20.2	16.4
Arens	5.0	4.2	6.9
Eytan	6.7	3.8	1.7
Others	10.1	8.2	8.6
No candidate	10.2	18.0	17.2

The man best suited to be prime minister

	Mar 88	Jan 88	Nov 87
Peres	35.4	37.7	42.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

It seems that Rabin's heavy-handed policy in the territories continues to damage his popularity, presumably among Alignment supporters. Sharon's and Refa'el Eytan's popularity continues to improve. Rightwing supporters would prefer having Sharon as defense minister, according to this poll.

The man best suited to be finance minister

	Mar 88	Jan 88	Nov 87
Nisim	57.0	44.9	45.1
Moda'i	13.1	13.1	12.7
Hurvitz	2.9	3.5	4.6
Ya'aqobi	5.3	3.8	3.0
Others	8.1	5.9	8.4
No candidate	13.6	28.8	26.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Abba Eban is the favorite as foreign minister: 28.4 percent preferred him over Shamir with 9 percent, and Peres with 15 percent.

DAVAR Poll

TA071401 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
7 Apr 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hanokh and Rafi Smith]

[Text] The popularity of most cabinet members has dropped. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is the only one whose popularity has increased in the last 3 months, while that of Finance Minister Nisim has remained stable and in the lead. These are some of the findings of a public opinion poll conducted by the Smith Institute for DAVAR, among 1,200 men and women who are a representative sample of the adult Jewish population. The poll was conducted between 20 and 28 March.

The question polled was: "In your opinion, how did the following figures perform their duties?" (The table specifies the percentage of those who answered "very good" and "good.")

	Jan 87	Sep 87	Dec 87	Mar 88
Yitzhaq Shamir	47	43	46	44
Shim'on Peres	67	56	54	46
Yitzhaq Rabin	74	64	58	60
David Levi	49	35	38	34
Ari'el Sharon	35	35	38	38
Moshe Nisim	36	62	66	66

	Jan 87	Sep 87	Dec 87	Mar 88
Yitzhaq Shamir	47	43	46	44
Shim'on Peres	67	56	54	46
Yitzhaq Navon	—	54	48	47

The evaluation of Yitzhaq Shamir's performance shows a slight drop in comparison to the December 1987 poll, while Shim'on Peres' registered an 8-percent drop. Despite the shift toward the right in public opinion, Peres is still more popular than Shamir but the gap has narrowed. Yitzhaq Rabin registered a 2-percent increase compared to the December poll. Minister Nisim remained stable as the most popular minister, with two-thirds expressing their satisfaction with the way he functions as finance minister. There has been no change in the evaluation of Yitzhaq Navon's and Ari'el Sharon's performance compared to December 1987. David Levi received a positive evaluation of less then one third of the public.

In order to obtain another perspective we posed an additional question: "Here is a list of all current prominent figures in the two major parties. Which, would you say, would run the country better?"

Alignment: Peres, Rabin, Navon, Qeysar—37 percent

Likud: Shamir, Levi, Sharon, Nisim—33 percent

Both equally—6 percent

None of them—15 percent

No opinion—9 percent

A 4-percent difference in favor of the Alignment over the Likud was registered. It is worth noting, however, the high percentage of those who were not willing to favor any group.

Opinion Poll Shows Government Losing Support

TA121555 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
12 Apr 88 p 7

[Report by Hanokh and Rafi Smith]

[Text] It appears that Likud supporters have a more positive evaluation of the government than do Alignment supporters.

Several months before the national unity government ends its term, the esteem it receives from the Israeli public is at its lowest ebb. A national public opinion poll carried out for DAVAR between 20 and 28 March (and we have already published some of the findings) shows that only 17 percent of the 1,200 people polled replied that in general the government is succeeding or mostly succeeding. This is the lowest support any government has received in Smith Institute polls in the last decade.

We point out that before the start of the unrest in December 1987 some 40 percent of the public thought that the government usually succeeded. About 18 months ago, on the eve of the rotation, an unprecedented 63 percent believed this was the situation. There has therefore been an extreme change in the public's evaluation of the government.

These figures can be seen more clearly in the following comparative table: "In your view is the government succeeding or not succeeding in the following activities?" (The table refers to the percentages of those who replied "succeeds" or "mostly succeeds."

	Sep 86	Jan 87	May 87	Sep 87	Dec 87	Mar 88
Treatment of the economy	73	42	57	54	49	44
Treatment of security issues	72	65	57	67	60	38
Treatment of foreign issues	72	59	46	56	55	33
Overall view of government	63	47	34	40	40	17

The sharp drop in general estimation is linked to the way the public viewed the government's treatment of issues on security and foreign affairs, and is therefore closely linked to the disturbances in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and the Shultz initiative. There was no significant change in the public's view of the government's activities in the economic field.

There was a tremendous change in the public's view of the government's performance in security matters between December 1987 and March 1988. In December, 60 percent thought that the government was succeeding in its performance in this field, while in March 1988 it reached only 38 percent.

A similar drop was noted in its conduct of foreign affairs, with 55 percent in December thinking that the government was succeeding in this field; 33 percent thought so in March. This major shift within only 3 months is almost unprecedented in Smith Institute polls in recent years, and shows that the unrest in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip has caused the government to "lose" enormous support among the Israeli public. Nevertheless, Yitzhaq Rabin's personal popularity has gone up and is now at 60 percent, just below that of the finance minister.

In general, supporters of the Likud and the right-wing parties gave high estimations of the government. Some 47 percent of Likud supporters thought the government was mostly succeeding in its handling of security matters, compared to 39 percent among supporters of the Labor Party. Thirty six percent of Likud supporters and 32 percent of Labor supporters thought that the government succeeded in foreign affairs. On "your general view of the government," about 25 percent of Likud supporters and only 12 percent of Labor supporters thought that the government was successful or mostly successful.

Similar results were received in reply to a different question: "In the present situation do you support early Knesset elections?" Fifty eight percent supported such a move, 31 percent did not agree to it, and the remaining 11 percent did not have an opinion. The large majority therefore supports early elections. It is interesting to note that among Labor Party supporters, 67 percent were in favor of early elections, while over 70 percent of supporters of the Citizens Rights Movement, the Center Movement (Shinuy) and MAPAM were in favor. In the right-wing camp, 48 percent of Likud supporters, a similar percentage among supporters of the religious parties, and a slightly larger percentage among Tehiya and Tzomet supporters agreed to early elections.

Another finding: "What in your view should the government do about the Shultz initiative?"

Eighteen percent said "agree to it as it is."

Thirty nine percent said "it should be accepted only after changes are made in it.

Twenty four percent said "as it is now it should be rejected."

Nineteen percent did not have any opinion.

Briefs

Agreement With Argentina

Moshe Shahal, energy and infrastructure minister, and Rodolfo Terragno, Argentine minister of public works and services, yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding that further opens the Argentine market to Israeli exports. Shahal and Terragno agreed to establish working teams to examine joint projects in the fields of energy and the use of water resources. The teams will submit recommendations within 3 months in order to form a joint working plan for the next 2 years. The teams' work will be financed by a joint fund to be set up by Israel and Argentina. [Text] [*TA070530 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Apr 88 p A12*]

Foreign Ministry Appointments

Diplomat Alon Li'el is the new Foreign Ministry spokesman. The appointment follows a long period in which the post was unmanned. Mr Li'el has been head of the press division, adviser to the political director general of the Foreign Ministry, and head of the South African desk. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that the appointments committee also named Yisra'el Gat as consul general in Los Angeles. Up to now he headed the foreign relations department in the Labor Party. [Text] [*TA311549 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 Mar 88*]

Assistant to IDF Spokesman

On 1 April Colonel Ra'anan Gisin was appointed the IDF's spokesman's assistant for foreign press. This move was taken as one of the lessons from the current unrest in the territories in terms of information and handling of the press. Gisin, 39, is considered an expert in foreign information and in handling foreign correspondents. As part of his job, Gisin will brief the foreign press community in Israel and will coordinate their visits to the defense establishment and IDF installations. He holds a PhD in strategic planning from Syracuse University. [Summary] [*TA041405 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 Apr 88 p 4*]

Soviet Delegation Arrives for 'Celebrations'

JN051904 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] The Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its founding.

On this occasion, Nikolay Trubilin, deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, arrived in Amman today heading a Soviet delegation to attend the celebrations.

Senator Bahjat al-Talhuni, president of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, received the delegation.

In a welcoming speech, he paid tribute to the friendship between Jordan and the Soviet Union and expressed great satisfaction over the identity of views between the two countries vis a vis many regional and international issues, especiaLly the Middle East issue.

Soviet Official on Meetings

JN111657 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Deputy Premier of the Soviet Federal Republic of Russia Nikolay Trubilin said the Soviet Union and Jordan share identical views on solving the Middle East crisis.

Trubilin, who is chairman of the Soviet-Jordanian Friendship Society, also added that his meetings with his majesty the king, his royal highness the crown prince, and the prime minister had given him the opportunity to be acquainted with Jordan's constants vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He also reiterated his country's support for the holding of an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of all the parties concerned in the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The statement came during a meeting with members of the Jordan-Soviet Friendship Society at the Soviet Cultural Center in Amman yesterday.

AL-RA'Y on Peace Process, Explosion at Office

JN100802 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Apr 88 p 1

[Editorial: "We Will Continue the March Despite Grudge Bearers"]

[Text] The six principles that His Majesty King Husayn has handed to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz represent the correct features for the peace process in the region in the Arab view.

This view has, therefore, become so clear that it cannot be deflected. It has become an expression of Arab unanimity. These principles have presented to the entire international community an integral and balanced peace plan; drawing on international legitimacy, satisfying the requirements of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace; and achieving the stability to maintain legitimate interests in the region.

It goes without saying that this plan has taken the sincere Arab desire for peace to the stage of specified action in so far as goals, scene, methods, and participants are concerned.

Therefore, the Arab side, with all its parties, has gained control over the issue, taken its position as initiator, and brought back unified Arab action on the international arena.

It can, therefore, be said that the emergence of this distinguished presence of the unified Arab action, at a time when the uprising escalates and expands day after day in the occupied territories, is an assertion that the Arab hand can hold all options.

It is no secret that this very result strongly annoyed the Israeli aggressors and all the forces that are displeased by the Arabs regaining their presence and unified action. They see in this presence and unified action a danger that disturbs them and threatens their ambitions.

Jordan, which contributed to achieving this result through a leading role in building the unified Arab presence and through supporting the uprising, realizes the extent of burning hatred within those who wagered on Arab failure and lost.

It realizes it is a target for heinous acts, through which they reflect their hatred and frustrations. Yesterday's explosion at the Motor Vehicle Licensing Department can, therefore, be viewed in the context of such wicked reflections.

Of course, no one wants to anticipate the results of the invistigation by the concerned parties, but it can be emphasized, as of now, that our coherent family looks at the crime with disdain and considers it a shameful and retrogressive act.

Regardless of the results of the investigations, the incident will neither cause our country to deviate from its pan-Arab policy nor affect our people's confidence in the continued stability of our society. Our march will proceed, immunized by the love of all members of our family.

AL-DUSTUR on Explosion at Government Office

JN100812 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
10 Apr 88 p 1

["Today's Word" column by the editor: "A Cowardly Incident"]

[Text] The Government has done well by revealing in its statement the magnitude of the cowardly incident at the Licensing Department yesterday. This statement has achieved two objectives, the first of which is to prevent the exaggerations that usually accompany such incidents.

The second objective achieved is to clarify the connection between these reckless, criminal acts and attempts to make Jordan abandon the pan-Arab line to which it has been adhering.

This adherence to the pan-Arab line has angered some parties that entertained hopes that this country will display leniency in responding to schemes seeking to weaken the Arab stand and to sacrifice the interests of the Palestinian people.

The incident could have passed into oblivion without statement or comment. However, the confidence between the regime and the popular base dictates that frank encounters be effected on both the biggest and smallest issues to keep the people well informed and enable them to exercise their rights and duties to defend their stability and the safety of their sons.

It is no coincidence that the government's statement on the incident was issued 1 day after the political statement that highlighted the constants binding the Jordanian stand toward the sacred cause, as the common denominators in the these statements are mutual confidence, the eagerness to involve the people in their external and internal affairs, and the call upon them to exercise their national responsibilities.

Those who are behind the perpetration of this cowardly incident should understand that they are dealing with a steadfast, strong country in which the base is bound to the peak through ties of affection, cooperation, and allegiance.

They must also understand that there is no room in this country for machinations and intrigues. Furthermore, this country has been seasoned by long experience in national struggle. This country has waged many battles to preserve Arab interests and dignity.

One more thing, this country is too strong to succumb to terrorism or blackmail or to deviate from the pan-Arab line that it has chosen for itself and for the sake of which it offered many righteous martyrs in various places.

We have no doubts that our people will give the only response that they have always been displaying toward these childish attempts—namely, to rally around the security organs, support every decisive stand designed to punish those who tamper with the blood of innocent people, and continue to perform their daily tasks, demonstrating a courage that knows no fear so as to send the conspirators' arrows back into their necks.

Israelis Enter Sribbin; Detain 3 Villagers

NC122035 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Today, a 60-man Israeli mechanized force, backed by helicopters, entered the village of Sribbin in the western sector. Some of the villagers were interrogated and three were detained and taken into the occupied territories. The force later demolished three houses.

Prior to the storming operation, the village came under intensive fire from the occupation forces post at Rshaf. The resistance fighters responded by firing mortars and rockets at the post.

100 Hizballah Supporters 'Deported' to Al-Biqa'

TA120758 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Amal is tightening its control over Shi'ite villages in southern Lebanon. Some 100 Hizballah supporters, including 25 Iranian citizens, were deported to Al-Biqa' yesterday.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Amal men searched houses in the village of Zibqin, a Hizballah stronghold, last night. They found many weapons and a large quantity of explosives.

Hizballah Criticizes Amal Movement, Birri

NC130539 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Hizballah assailed Minister Nabih Birri in a statement issued last night, accusing him of hatching a plot to undermine, on behalf of the United States, the Islamic resistance in the south. Hizballah added that Birri had used the U.S. and Israeli expression when he said that he had attacked the extremist Islamic trend.

The statement also assailed Da'ud Da'ud, chairman of the Amal Movement Executive Committee, and Mahmud Faqih, head of the Movement's Organizational Department, who declared that resistance operations will only be carried out with the knowledge of Amal's operations room.

The statement asked: What kind of operations room do these leaders, who collaborate with Israel, have? The statement noted that Amal's onslaught against Hizballah aimed to end the fighting against Israel.

The statement cautioned that Hizballah, despite all rumors, is still stronger than those in Jabal 'Amil and is more capable of shaking the ground under their feet.

The statement concluded: We may surprise everyone if they do not stop their evil deeds against the mujahidin.

Hizballah Said 'Finished' Militarily in South

NC091737 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Mahmud Faqih, the Amal official in southern Lebanon, has stated that Hizballah is finished in the south from a military point of view. He added, however, that Hizballah can continue its political and cultural activity.

Faqih accused the fundamentalists of wanting to control southern Lebanon and obstruct any solution among the Lebanese.

PNSF, Fatah Clash in Burj al-Barajinah Camp

NC122006 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Clashes involving the use of artillery and rockets have been continuing between PNSF and Fatah gunmen in the Burj al-Barajinah camp since 2000 today. It was later reported that tension had spread to the southern suburb, where armed roadblocks have been spotted near the Harat Hurayk municipal building on the road to Burj al-Barajinah, and another at the Bi'r al-'Abd circle. At 2100 clashes erupted in Sidon between Palestinian and Nasirite Popular Liberation Army gunmen.

Syrian Forces Reportedly Burn Iraqi Food Aid

NC121828 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] According to a security report received by the Voice of Lebanon, Syrian forces today burned a food aid shipment loaded on trucks for the internal security forces units at Hammana, 'Alayh, Bayt al-Din, and 'Ayn Zhalta. The food was donated by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and estimated to be approximately 170 sacks.

The Lebanese Army 6th Brigade checkpoint in Al-Barbir [in West Beirut] prevented trucks carrying Iraqi food aid for internal security patrols from entering the Burj al-Barajinah area.

9 February Organization Attacks Syrian Barracks

NC120806 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for a rocket and machinegun attack on a huge assembly point of the Syrian occupation forces in the 'Araman Barracks near the northern town of Al-Minya. According to the organization, the attack resulted in a number of Syrian casualties.

The 9 February Organization added that the Syrian occupation forces had mounted wide-scale searches in the area shortly afterward, firing flares.

Kuwaiti Amir Telephones Al-Asad on Hijacking

JN121133 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad today received a telephone call from the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. During this call, the talk dealt with the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner.

The president assured the amir of Kuwait, saying: We in Syria have exerted efforts from the 1st day of the hijacking. We will continue our efforts and we will do all we can to save the innocent poeple whose lives are being unjustly terminated.

KUNA on Amir's Phone Call

LD121224 Kuwait KUNA in English 1101 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Damascus, April 12 (KUNA)—It was announced here officially that President Hafiz al-Asad received Tuesday a phone call from H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The talks dealt with the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner currently grounded in Larnaca airport, Cyprus.

An official Syrian source said that President al-Asad has affirmed to H.H. the Amir that Syria has exerted efforts since the first day of hijacking, and will continue further efforts to rescue the innocent passengers on board the airliner, 'Al-Jabiriyah'.

On the other hand Kuwait's ambassador to Syria Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim met here with director of the Arab World Department in the Syrian Foreign Ministry Omar al-Sa'id.

The ambassador, following the meeting, said the Syrian official affirmed Syria's support with Kuwait in the ordeal of the hijacked airplane and that his country will exert all the efforts to end the tragedy soon.

Al-Shar' Returns From Arab League Meeting

JN121803 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus from Tunis at noon today after chairing the 89th session of the Arab League Council.

He was seen off at Tunis airport by Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general; 'Adnan 'Umran, assistant Arab League secretary general for Arab and international affairs; Ambassador Ahmad 'Isa, Syria's Arab League permanent representative; and the Syrian Emabssy staff in Tunis.

PNC Member Linked to 'Arafat Meets With Khaddam

JN100955 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 8 Apr 88 p 3

[Text] Damascus, AL-ITTIHAD—Informed Palestinian sources have said that PNC member Hasib al-Sabbagh, who is well known for his close links to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, paid an unannounced visit to Damascus last week, during which he held talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Al-Sabbagh has paid more than one visit to the Syrian capital during the past few months in a bid to bridge the gap between the Syrian and Palestinian leaderships.

It is believed that during his recent visit he conveyed the Palestinian answers to demands made and conditions set by Damascus for bringing about a reconciliation between the two sides.

Afghanistan

'Extremists' Kill General Near Pol-e Matak

LD121620 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] A BIA military section correspondent reports that Brigadier General Shah Aqa was attacked by extremists near Pol-e Matak on his way to Kabul. He was severely wounded and immediately taken to the medical sciences hospital. Unfortunately, despite the efforts of the staff of the Academy of Medical Sciences, he died. May his soul rest in peace.

Amin Holds Talks With Armenian Minister

LD121432 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, first deputy prime minister and deputy chairman of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society, met today with Rudik Ashotovich Vardanyan, minister of social security [name and title as heard] and president of the Union of Friendship and Cultural Relations Societies of Armenia with the Republic of Afghanistan.

During this meeting talks were conducted on matters of mutual interest and issues related to the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society and the Soviet-Afghan Friendship Society. [passage omitted]

Saratov Oblast Delegation Arrives for Talks

LD122318 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] A delegation of Saratov Oblast of the USSR headed by Vladimir Fedorovich Cherneshov, deputy chairman of the exective committee of Saratov Oblast, arrived in the Republic of Afghanistan today in connection with direct cooperation talks with Helmand Province.

The delegation was greeted by Sayyed Ekram Paygir, minister of state for direct cooperation affairs, a representative of Helmand Province, (Chobarov), minister plenipotentiary, and Petrov, economic counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in the Republic of Afghanistan.

According to another report, the delegation met this afternoon with the minister of state for direct cooperation and talked about the forthcoming cooperation of Saratov Oblast with Helmand Province.

Commentary Says Downing of Plane 'Barbaric Act'

LD122256 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] An air disaster has once again taken place in the skies of Afghanistan. An Antonov-26 transport plane which was flying from Meymaneh to Mazar-e Sharif was shot down by a U.S.-made Stinger anti-aircraft missile. As a result of this savage act, 29 people died, including 8 women and 2 children. The perpetrators of this barbaric act can only be the Peshawar-based seven leaders. Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of the seven-party coalition, in trying to damage the process of national reconciliation, has once again asserted that the rebels will continue their armed struggle.

They have shot down many airplanes. The death toll has reached 200. How long can this sort of action continue? Why do people still lose their lives in Afghan skies? Why do they want this situation to continue? Naturally, neither the people nor the Government of Afghanistan, which has taken extensive measures to end the war and fratricide, are responsible for these incidents.

The constructive and peaceful proposals of our party and state, and the national reconciliation policy enjoy the broad support of our people. But the leaders of the opposition do not want to listen to logic and join in a peaceful settlement. They have rejected the Government of Afghanistan's proposal to form a coalition government. They count on military power without taking into account the right to live and the importance of life. For this reason, they increasingly stockpile arms in their depots and persistently look for new types of war equipment.

According to media reports, new caches of Stinger and Blowpipe missiles, anti-aircraft guns, antitank rockets, 120-mm mortars, recoilless rifles, and other war equipment are being stockpiled.

Who will benefit from this situation? This policy can never put an end to the bloody tragedy in Afghanistan, which has suffered for years and is the target of an imposed war.

Mujahidin Repudiate Geneva Talks, Continue Jihad

LD111746 Tehran IRNA in English 1723 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Islamabad, April 11, IRNA—Over one thousand Afghan mujahidin and refugees from different parties of Afghanistan resistance issued a statement in Pakistan on Sunday emphasizing on "jihad" (holy struggle) will achieving the ideals of Afghan nation.

The statement says that jihad will never end in the country unless the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries are present at the talks concerning the solution of Afghan problem.

"The results of the indirect talks in Geneva are against the Afghan Muslims," the Afghans said in their statement and asked the Pakistani Government not to sign any treaty which is related to these talks.

Islamic Movement Rejects 'Superpower Accord'

LD122151 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Qom, April 12, IRNA—Although withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan is a great victory for Afghan people, however Afghanistan's Harakat-e Enqelabi Eslami (Islamic Movement) party categorically rejects the superpowers' accord on the fate of the Islamic homeland, announced the party's statement here today.

The statement stressed that it is only Afghan Muslims who determine their fate, adding that no country or power has the right to play with the destiny of the Afghan nation. Any agreement between Pakistan and the usurper Kabul regime cannot be recognized as legitimate act, it said.

The statement emphasised that Afghan Muslims will continue their fight till the complete downfall of the Marxist regime installed in Kabul, and the establishment of an Islamic and popular government after the Soviet pull-out.

Afghan people from all walks of life should play their part in deciding the future of Afghanistan, concluded Harakat-e Enqelabi Eslami.

Reportage on National Assembly Elections

8th Day of Voting Reviewed

LD130851 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 12, BAKHTAR—Election to the National Assembly entered its eighth day. All the polling stations were witnessing the desire of the people in the realisation of the policy of national reconciliation and the securing of peace and tranquillity in the country.

The old men, women, clergymen, officers, soldiers, peasants, workers, national traders, teachers including the representatives of different social and political organizations reported to their constituencies and elected their desired candidates. Included among the voters were the returnees and the opposition.

In Badakhshan Province, 8,763 persons participated today in the elections included among them were 2,500 opposition. In four polling stations of Paktika Province, over 2,200 persons cast votes to their desired candidates.

In Takhar Province, 11,308 persons, 20 percent of which was the opposition voted for their desired candidates till April 11. Likewise, during eight days of elections in Kabul city 259,697 persons cast their ballots to their reliable candidates. Nomads' polling stations are not included in this enumeration.

Thousands of people also reported to several polling stations in Kabul city and voted for their reliable candidates. On the eighth day of election campaign, a number of over 22,787 nomads were present in the election constituencies. The total number of voters in Kabul city amounted at 282,483 persons.

People's 'Enthusiasm' Noted

LD130844 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 12, BAKHTAR—In the past seven days of elections to the National Assembly of Afghanistan, a total of one million and forty thousand persons voted for their desired candidates in the capital and provinces. On April 11 alone, 138,440 persons voted for their desired candidates. Millions of Afghans supporting the policy of national reconciliation are behind the voting.

Elections to National Assembly reach their final stages. In seventeen provinces, over 90 percent of voters participated in the elections. Voting in army has practically ended. Elections are in progress in a high-level of political organisation in Kabul City and Provinces of Badghis, Baghlan, Balkh, Paktika, Jowzjan, Samangan, Ghazni, Faryab, Kabul, Qandahar, Nangarhar, Nimruz, Vardak, Herat, Helmand and a number of other provinces.

On April 10 over six thousand persons including members of armed groups participated in voting. In Sar-e Pol province, opposition was allowed to (?nominate) candidates. The opposition cast about 45 thousand votes.

Opposition members participated in elections in the provinces of Helmand and Baghlan. In Parvan and Laghman Provinces, the opposition armed groups joined the state sovereignty. During the election days there has been an increase in the number of returnees to the country as well.

Meanwhile, the extremist armed groups are endeavouring to create obstacles in the way of elections. For example, the extremist armed groups in the past two days have shelled on the security posts of the Provinces of Kabul, Takhar, Nangarhar, Ghazni, Qandahar, Zabol, Herat and Paktia.

On April 10, the extremist groups shot down a passenger plane in Meymaneh city as a result of which six crew and twenty three passengers including eight women and two children were martyred.

However, such undesirable incidences have not put a negative impact on people's morale and the people are participating with enthusiasm in elections which are continuing throughout the country.

Briefs

Moldavian Cooperation Talks

A joint session of a high-ranking delegation of the Moldavian SSR and leadership delegations of a number of ministries and departments was convened this morning in Kabul to assess the implementation of accords and handing over assistance to Ghazni Province. BIA reported that this session was attended by Vladislav Georgiyevich Kutyrkin, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Moldavian SSR; deputy ministers of the ministries of public health, education, and training; representatives of the State Planning Committee, the State Committee for Labor and Social Problems, the Ministries of Land Reclamation and Water Resources and Construction, the State Committee for Culture [as heard]; as well as officials of Ghazni Province. Talks and discussion were held on items in the existing accord in relation to direct cooperation between the Moldavian SSR and Ghazni Province and on the draft proposal for the consultation of a direct cooperation protocol which will soon be signed in Kabul between the delegation and Afghan authorities. [Text] [*LD020210 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 31 Mar 88*]

Narcotics Seizures

Kabul, April 11, BAKHTAR—One hundred eighty three thousand and eighty three kilograms of heroin, opium, hashish, and poppy seed were discovered and eliminated by the department of campaign against crimes of the Ministry of Interior last year (ended 20 March). The drugs were imported by the armed extremists with the collaboration of international drugs trafficking network into the country for the purpose to addict Afghan youths. Assorted arms and ammunition of the smugglers were also confiscated during this period. [Text] [*LD130133 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 12 Apr 88*]

Bangladesh

President Lifts State of Emergency

BK121506 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1430 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] The state of emergency has been lifted. A press note issued by the Home Ministry this evening said that under the power vested to him in Article 141 A, Clause 2, Subclause A of the Constitution, the president has lifted the state of emergency which was proclaimed on 27 November.

Move Reflects 'Confidence'

BK130412 London BBC World Service in English 0015 GMT 13 Apr 88

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] President Ershad of Bangladesh has lifted the state of emergency imposed 5 months ago. His announcement came 2 weeks before the newly elected parliament convenes following last month's elections. It appears to reflect President Ershad's confidence that he has overcome the challenge by opposition parties, who mounted a long campaign to force his resignation. Mark Tully reports from the Indian capital, Delhi:

[Begin Tully recording] President Ershad imposed the emergency at the height of the opposition's campaign against him. It was a campaign marked by a series of general strikes, which crippled the economy. The opposition kept up that campaign until the parliamentary elections President Ershad called in an attempt to break the political (?impasse). The main opposition parties boycotted the elections and the turnout was very low.

Nevertheless, the opposition have failed to revive their campaign against President Ershad since the election. The president's party was returned with an overwhelming majority. A few days ago, the president announced that the new parliament would meet in 2 weeks' time.

The opposition has reacted swiftly to the decision to lift the emergency. Sheikh Hasina, the leader of the Awami League, which dominates one of the two main opposition alliances, has accused the president of lifting the emergency to forestall criticism at the Aid-Bangladesh-Consortium meeting on Thursday. Leaders of the opposition have been in America and Europe in an attempt to persuade them not to back the president's government.

Bangladesh is almost entirely dependent on Western aid for its development budget. The other large opposition alliance is dominated by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. One of its leaders has said the emergency has been lifted in an attempt to make, what he called, a fake parliament real. [end recording]

4 Dead, Over 100 Injured in Local Elections

BK130618 Hong Kong AFP in English 0536 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Dhaka, April 13 (AFP)—At least four people died and more than a hundred were injured as clashes with police marred the fourth day of voting in local council elections in Bangladesh, newspapers reported Wednesday.

Police fired on rival groups at a poll centre in the northern Mymenshingh District Tuesday, hitting five people, two of whom later died in hospital, the reports said. Police said activists were trying steal ballot boxes.

In the southern Munshiganj District, clashes between rival political groups left one person dead and three injured, the reports said. Police held five people for rioting and obstructing balloting.

Another person was killed and 40 injured in armed clashes at a rural polling centre in southeast Chittagong, newspapers said.

Clashes in the port city itself left 20 people injured, including a police inspector, and another 30 were injured as bombs rocked several polling centres in the nearby Rauzan District, they added. In the river port town of Narayanganj, about 20 people were injured, four seriously, in similar clashes. Police recovered 22 Molotov cocktails from one poll centre and arrested one person, the reports said.

Voting for local councils began at some 5,500 polling centres on Saturday when at least two people were killed and 100 injured. Similar violence left 55 people injured on Sunday, newspapers said.

The initial voting was suspended on February 10 amid widespread violence in which 114 people died, according to official figures. The latest round of voting is to continue until Saturday.

India

'General Alert' on Kashmir Border With Pakistan

*BK131248 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 13 Apr 88*

[Text] A general alert has been sounded along the Jammu and Kashmir border with Pakistan to check infiltration of terrorists. This follows reports that a few groups of terrorists are trying to enter the border.

The state border with Punjab has already been sealed and a constant vigil has been maintained. Police patrolling has been strengthened along the River Ravi bordering Punjab. The security arrangements at banks, commercial institutions, and airports have also been intensified.

External Affairs Ministry Issues Annual Report

*BK121617 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 12 Apr 88*

[Text] India has regretted that Pakistan's negative actions have vitiated the atmosphere, adversely affecting relations between the two countries. The Ministry of External Affairs in its annual report for 1987-88 says that India's sincere sentiments for good relations have not been reciprocated by that country.

It says the negative actions by Pakistan include its weapon-oriented nuclear policy, its quest for sophisticated weapons like AWACS [Airborne Warning and Control System] far beyond its genuine defense requirements, and its involvement with extremist activities directed against India.

The report points out that Pakistan has been indulging in orchestrated and concerted efforts to internationalize the Kashmir issue and resorting to offensive military action in the Siachen area. Pakistan has also been unwilling to have nondiscriminatory trade relations with India and is reluctant to increase people-to-people contact.

On Indo-U.S. relations, it says some differences remain on regional and international issues. The primary among these is the respective approach of the two countries to the nonpeaceful dimensions of Pakistan's nuclear program. It expresses India's disappointment that the United States has chosen to waive its own nonproliferation laws in favor of Pakistan. During his U.S. visit, Mr Rajiv Gandhi reaffirmed that India has no intention of producing nuclear weapons unless constrained to do so.

Referring to Sri Lanka, the report describes Indo-Sri Lankan agreement as an example of how two nonaligned countries can solve major and complex problems bilaterally without the involvement of outside powers. It points out that the agreement meets the concerns of all the parties.

The report regrets that the LTTE proved unwilling to make the transition from militancy to democratic means and set out to try and wreck the agreement. This left the IPKF with no choice but to move against the LTTE to disarm them.

Turning to Afghanistan, the report says India as a country in the region is deeply affected by the situation in that country. Accordingly, India has initiated contacts with various Afghan opposition elements and the countries involved in the Afghan situation to help contribute toward the political situation. Our efforts are continuing and we are in favor of a nonaligned, independent, and stable Afghanistan.

Defense Ministry Report Notes Pakistani Arms

*BK110859 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 11 Apr 88*

[Text] Pakistan's nuclear weapons program and its quest for other sophisticated weapons have led to a serious deterioration of the security environment in the region.

The annual report of the Ministry of Defense for 1987-88 released in New Delhi today says that Islamabad's acquisition of arms was beyond its requirements. These developments, besides worsening our security environment, also prompt diversification of scarce resources to meet the imperative of the country's defense and security.

The report also says that Pakistan has been seeking to gain a technology edge over India by acquiring sophisticated weapons system.

AWACS, Siachen Area Cited

*BK111248 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 11 Apr 88*

[Text] India has expressed concern over the growing security linkage between Pakistan and the United States and Islamabad's weapon oriented nuclear program. The annual report of the Defense Ministry released in New

Delhi today says Pakistan's quest for acquiring sophisticated weapons such as AWACS far beyond its defense requirements has led to a serious deterioration of the security environment in the region.

The report referred to the hostile posture of Pakistan in Siachen area and its involvement with terrorist activity directed against India.

The report says despite availability of further proof of Pakistan's clandestine nuclear weapons program, the United States has decided to provide that country with a large economic and military package valued at $4.02 billion. Pakistan has been seeking to gain a technological edge over India by securing sophisticated weapon systems. These developments have compelled India to divert its scarce resources to meet the imperatives of defense and security.

Border Situation Viewed

BK111655 Delhi Domestic Service in English
530 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The annual report also reviews India's relations with other neighboring countries and developments in the region. On India's efforts to help solve the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka, the report blames the LTTE for forcibly preventing the return of normalcy there. It reiterates India's unflinching commitment to restore peace in that country through faithful implementation of the India-Sri Lankan agreement.

On Sino-Indian relations, the report says the two countries have agreed to avoid confrontation and conflict on the border at the eighth round of official talks. However, China continues to upgrade its logistics and communication network in Tibet and maintain a higher force level compared to the past.

Regarding Bangladesh, the report says the continuing presence of more than 49,000 Chakma refugees in Tripura has complicated relations between the two countries.

Punjab 'Terrorists' Acquire Stinger Missiles

BK110858 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] In Lok Sabha today, Mr Jaypal Reddy, Janata, expressed concern over press reports that terrorists in Punjab have acquired U.S.-made Stinger missiles from Pakistan.

Raising the issue during zero hour, he said it will pose a big menace to our aircraft and demanded a statement from the government.

The deputy speaker, Mr Thambi Durai, said that he would refer the matter to the government for ascertaining the facts. The minister for parliamentary affairs, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, said the matter can be raised during the discussion on the demands for grants of the Home Ministry which is due to be taken up shortly.

Sikh Leader Urges Breaking Ties With Pakistan

BK091605 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] The president of the Akali Dal, Master Tara Singh group, Jathedar [Sikh religious leader] Rachpal Singh, has urged the government to break off diplomatic relations with Pakistan.

Addressing a news conference in New Delhi today, he said Pakistan has virtually attacked India by supplying sophisticated arms and ammunition to terrorists in Punjab. He said Pakistani officials always incite Sikh pilgrims visiting holy shrines in that country.

The jathedar said the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] head priest, Jathedar Jasbir Singh Rhode, should come out with a program aimed at bringing peace in Punjab.

Sikh Organization Protests at Pakistani Embassy

BK111647 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Members of the Indian National Sikh Youth Forum staged a dharna [sit-in demonstration] in front of the Pakistan Embassy in New Delhi today. They were protesting against Pakistan's support to terrorists in Punjab. Later they submitted a memorandum to the Pakistani ambassador.

Police Smash 'Terrorist' Gang in Punjab

BK120316 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] The security forces have smashed a gang of hard-core terrorists in Punjab and arrested five of them. They have been identified as Surjinder Singh, Harvinder Singh, Jorawar Singh, Gurdev Singh, and Jaswal Singh. Some arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

Two persons, including a terrorist, were killed and one injured in separate incidents last night. In Amritsar District, one of the two terrorists who fired at a police party in Gharinda area was found dead later. He is believed to have consumed poison. Some arms and ammunition were recovered. One person was gunned down at village Mukandpur in Jullundur District, while another was injured in village Singha in Faridkot District.

'Militants' Fire Gunshots in Golden Temple

*BK130856 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 13 Apr 88*

[Text] According to agency reports from Amritsar, a number of gunshots were fired by militants in the Golden Temple complex this morning. The gunshots created a panic among the large number of devotees, who had come to the temple complex to celebrate Baisakhi [harvest festival month]. The firing of shots lasted nearly 10 minutes.

Gandhi Sends Message of Sympathy to Ziaul Haq

*BK121624 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 12 Apr 88*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has expressed distress at the mounting casualties from the accident that occurred near Islamabad in Pakistan. In a message to President Ziaul Haq, he conveyed earnest sympathy to the hundreds of families, who are suddenly bereaved and many others who have suffered serious injuries. He said in this hour of unforeseen sorrow, the people of India extend their heartfelt condolences to their brothers and sisters in Pakistan.

Strike in Srinagar Supports Pakistan Tragedy

*BK121627 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 12 Apr 88*

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has said that the state government will deal firmly with those responsible for yesterday's violence in Srinagar, and who are out to disturb peace and thwart the process of development. He was addressing a joint meeting of the state cabinet and Doda District Development Board in Jammu today.

Meanwhile, the situation in the Kashmir valley remained peaceful today. However, a partial hartal [strike] was observed in Srinagar city in some of the towns to show sympathy for those killed in the ammunition dump tragedy in Pakistan. Some stray incidents of stone throwing in down town Srinagar and Baramula have been reported.

Commentary Views Geneva Proximity Talks

*BK121407 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1010 GMT 12 Apr 88*

[Commentary by John Kinialin of the Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis: "Geneva Talks on Afghanistan Heading Toward Settlement")

[Text] The indirect talks going on in Geneva for more than a month between Afghanistan and Pakistan under the United Nations auspices to find a solution to the Afghanistan problem appear to be heading for a settlement. Even though the negotiating parties had crossed the original time schedule to arrive at an agreement as stipulated in Soviet leader Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's statement of 8 February last, the concerned governments seemed not to lose hope. The stalemate resulting from new conditionalities was sought to be broken through hectic negotiations in different capitals and through the untiring efforts of the UN negotiator, Mr Diego Cordovez.

The latest round of proximity talks in Geneva which began on the 2d of last month is the eighth in a series starting in June 1982. The earlier rounds resulted in covering much area on which there were differing perceptions. These related to noninterference in each other's internal affairs, international guarantee by the two superpowers and the return of the Afghan refugees from Pakistan.

The last instrument in a comprehensive settlement revolved on the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan. After the agreement on the timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet troops again some hitches came up. There was the Pakistani demand for setting up an interim government in Afghanistan to supervise the withdrawal of the Soviet troops and the return of the refugees; secondly, the American insistence on the principle of symmetry in ending American and Soviet arm shipments to the opposing Afghan sides.

According to reports from Geneva, Pakistan appears to have modified its stand on the transitional arrangement in Kabul during the troop withdrawal. The other issue that stood in the way of a final settlement was at the level of the superpowers on ending military aid to their respective clients. Reports emanating from Moscow and Islamabad, however, suggest that a solution to this vexing issue has also been found. They said that the settlement provides for an end to Soviet and U.S. arms aid to Kabul regime and the mujahidin respectively and the holding of a general assembly by the Kabul government and the rebels to reach a settlement on an interim government. This agreement at the superpower level is to be initialled by the U.S. secretary of state and the Soviet foreign minister when they meet in Moscow on 21 April.

The parties at the negotiating table at Geneva have, of course, been engaged in hard bargaining, but there were compulsions on all of them to arrive at some sort of an arrangement to pave the way for ending the bloody Afghan imbroglio.

The new Kremlin leadership under the policy of openness and restructuring both domestically and externally, wants to tread on a new trail of international relations leading to a lessening of tension. A test case was Afghanistan, where the Soviet forces have been bogged down in costly warfare since 1979 when they entered there in support of the beleaguered Marxist revolutionary government. The antigovernment sources consisted of capitalist landlords and religious fundamentalists, who got military support and abetment from external powers, mainly the United States, through the conduit provided by Pakistan.

Mr Gorbachev's determination to get out of Afghanistan was clear when, at the 27th party congress in February 1986, he termed Afghanistan a bleeding wound, and later in his Vladivostok speech in July, he announced the decision to withdraw 8,000 troops engaged in air defense duties. The Kabul government at the same time also realized the futility of armed operations against the rebels, who could not be suppressed in these long years.

Hence, the policy of national reconciliation initiated by the Najibullah regime with the blessings of the Kremlin. Under it, the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA, has welcomed back a number of former guerrillas and transformed the government in Kabul into a broad based one by including a few non-PDPA elements. To assuage the feelings of the religious minded, the newly adopted Constitution has given Islam the pride of place.

As for Pakistan, though developments in Afghanistan helped to provide the military regime the much needed legitimacy by diverting the attention of the people to the Russian threat next door leaving no time to think of democracy and all that and strengthen the armed might of the country through the $3.2 billion and subsequently the $4.02 billion military and economic aid packages, the negative fall out on the domestic situation was disastrous. The 3 million refugees in the border provinces slowly began to take over the local business, especially the transport sector, and pushed the locals out of the limited employment opportunities. They also came to control and help spread the profitable yet politically and socially dangerous trade of arms traffic, drug peddling and smuggling.

The U.S. President, Mr Ronald Reagan, is at the tag end of his career. He has mellowed down from his earlier extreme postures toward the Soviet Union and is now inclined to carve out a niche for himself in history. Both the superpowers have exhibited a tendency toward working out an arrangement for peaceful coexistence, devoid of wars and military confrontation realizing the nuclear era is a no win situation.

Given the scenario, progress in the Geneva talks on Afghanistan at the superpowers level was in the cards.

Iran

Majlis Speaker Interviewed on Hijacking, War

LD130828 Tehran IRNA in English 0807 GMT 13 Apr 88

["Hashemi-Rafsanjani to OBSERVER: Kuwaitis and Saudis Better Advised To Steer Clear of Baghdad"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the reason Iran let the commandeered Kuwaiti airliner leave Iran was the safety of its passengers.

In an interview with the English daily OBSERVER released here Tuesday he said that the hijackers of the jumbo jet who commandeered it to Mashhad in northeastern Iran last week, and now in Algiers, had threatened to blow up the plane. He said that Iran could not make them change their mind and that Iran did not want any harm done to the passengers.

Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani deplored hijacking describing it as a filthy action which endangers lives of innocent people and poses threat on flights.

On the Iraqi-imposed war and whether Iran will forgive Saddam, he said that Iran could not give itself such a right stressing that the Islamic Republic of Iran could not compromise principles.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani made it clear that Iran respects territorial integrity of Iraq and that its people could determine their own fate.

In reply to a question that many fear that spread of the Islamic Revolution of Iran will topple governments such as those in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, he said that if the two countries steer a political course independent of Iraq such a thing will not take place and there is no reason for such an incident.

However, he added, if Kuwait and Saudi Arabia remain with Iraq till the end, the fall of the Iraqi Government will put them in a difficult situation. "We have always told them that we are ready to maintain friendly relations with them," he stressed.

On March 18 chemical bombardment of northern Iraqi city of Halabjah and its possible impacts on talks with Saddam, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that Iran has never been willing to negotiate with Saddam. The Halabjah genocide, he said, has made Iran more serious to do more to rescue the Iraqis.

On trial of Saddam and the nature of such tribunal, he said that it could be an international, an Islamic court or a UN arranged one adding that Iran has not specified its kind.

In reply to another question that certain Arab countries including Saudi Arabia have worked to establish ties with Iran, and the level of the efforts, he said "negotiations have been taking place on future of Iraq and relations of Iran with them on various levels, with and without mediators. However, it has not yet reached a definite result."

The speaker denied rumors that the Saudi Government had offered Iran a sum of dls. 40 billion to end the Iraqi-imposed war.

On attacks on neutral ships in the Persian Gulf, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that Iran was totally against such violations.

On post-war reconstruction of Iran, he said that will do it itself, stressing that it will insist on getting war reparations from Iraq. As for the amount of the sum, he said it must be decided by a group of experts." [quotation marks as received]

On fate of special envoy of the archbishop of Canterbury, Terry Waite, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to Iranian hostages in Lebanon and said that Britain could have influenced the Lebanese Phalangists and give Iran information on their whereabouts, or at least on their physical well-being.

He said Iran would first like to see some action taken in this respect so that it could also follow up Waite's case and those of other hostages. "If France, West Germany, Britain and the U.S. help us is this respect we in turn will help them," he pointed out.

Envoy in Bonn Denies Any Link With Hijackers

LD121817 Hamburg DPA in German 1650 GMT
12 Apr 88

[Text] Bonn—Iran has rejected any connection with the hijackers of the Kuwaiti aircraft. The Iranian ambassador in Bonn, Mehdi Ahari-Mostafavi has said that his country most strongly condemned all actions in which innocent people were endangered. He pointed to efforts by Iranian politicians to free the hostages unharmed during their stay in his country. Thanks to the "circumspect and firm stance" of the Iranian authorities, there had been no victims.

Iraqi Opposition Denies Links With Hijacking

LD130942 Tehran IRNA in English 0933 GMT
13 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—A spokesman for the office of Allameh Seyyed Mohammad Taqi Modarresi here Wednesday categorically denied a report published by Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS Monday stating that hijackers of the Kuwaiti jetliner were his affiliates.

The spokesman of Modarresi who is an opponent of the Iraqi ruler based here said that the reports were unfounded and aimed at marring the role of Muslim ulema. The report, he added, aimed at distracting world public opinion from Iraqi regime's atrocities.

He stressed that Islam is against any step which may harm innocent people and campaigns against such measures.

'Strong Winds' Blamed for Unintentional Blast

TA121503 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1440 GMT
12 Apr 88

[Text] Erzurum (A.A)—Iran's consul in Erzurum in the east of Turkey, 'Ali Asghar Safi, today said no one can destroy Turkish-Iranian friendship.

Answering questions by the press at a film showing in the Iranian Consulate in Erzurum today, Safi explained the Iran war planes' bombing of Habur transit point on Turkey's border with Iraq as an error. He said strong winds carried the bombs to Habur and that the act was entirely unintentional.

Complaining of the reaction of the Turkish press to this error, Safi said the press had not reacted so violently when Iraq had bombed Turkey's southeastern province of Hakkari in violation of Turkish air space.

The Iranian Consulate had invited the local press to a film showing Iraq's attacks on Iran by chemical weapons.

Velayati Returns From Gulf States Tour

LD130620 Tehran IRNA in English 0610 GMT
13 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—Iran'S Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned home Tuesday night ending a three-day visit to Muscat, Doha, and Abu Dhabi.

Upon arrival in Tehran, Velayati said that the Islamic Republic of Iran in keeping with its policy of good-neighborly relation has done its best to maintain good relations with its neighbors.

He said that Oman and Iran have enjoyed good ties for the past two years and that his visits to Muscat and Abu Dhabi and Doha aimed at discussing bilateral and regional issues including the recent victories of Muslim combatants and Iraq's March 18 chemical bombing of Halabjah.

Velayati said that in his meeting with the officials of the three shaykhdoms he had dealt on Iran's position in relation with the Palestinians' uprising and their achievements and on the situation in Afghanistan. He said he and his counterparts in the three shaykhdoms shared identical views on the need to combat the Zionist regime and world arrogance.

The Iranian foreign minister said that the United Arab Emirates has opted to represent Persian Gulf states for expansion of relations with Iran.

'Friends' Deplore Iraqi Crimes

LD130839 Tehran IRNA in English 0829 GMT
13 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Tuesday night that "Iran's Persian Gulf friends have deplored and some condemned Iraq's crimes against civilians."

At a brief interview here upon return from a visit to the UAE, Oman and Qatar, he said that in his meetings with the officials of the three shaykhdoms he had dealt on Iran's position in relation with the Palestinians' uprising and their achievements and on the situation in Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Latest Hajj Pronouncement

LD121356 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1112 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Following the request made by the imam's representative and the supervisor of Iranian hajj pilgrims in connection with this year's hajj pilgrimage, the number of pilgrims, and whether or not to stage demonstrations disowning the infidels, his excellency has said: In the current year 150,000 Iranians will be going on pilgrimage. The imam's representative's statement that 150,000 Iranians should go on pilgrimage comes at a time when the Al Sa'ud regime has issued statements about reducing the number of Iranian pilgrims and forbidding them to stage demonstrations. This clearly goes against the wishes of the Islamic Republic.

This comes at a time when the Palestinian issue and the struggle against international Zionism—the main issues of the world of Islam—have assumed a new dimension in view of the intensification of the Islamic Revolution of the oppressed people of Palestine. So, as the imam of the ummah stated: It is impossible for the pilgrims to take part in the hajj rituals and not to demonstrate against world arrogance. Disowning the infidels is one of the political duties of the hajj, and without it our pilgrimage will not be hajj.

In such circumstances when the Al Sa'ud regime is trying to eliminate the sensitive and political dimension of hajj on the eve of the great spiritual and political hajj congress by reducing the number of Iranian pilgrims, the revolutionary Muslims of Palestine, who by relying on Islamic principles are trying to foil the political equations of the world arrogance and the United States in enslaving the Middle East nations, need all-round support, particularly political support, from Muslims of the world during the unity marches and from disowning the infidels at Holy Mecca.

The Islamic Republic believes that the political dimension of the spiritual and political hajj ritual, contrary to the well-known objectives of the colonialists and world arrogance about the division between the religion and politics, is inseparable from the ideological dimension. Thus the political and spiritual hajj rituals are there to allow the Muslims to pray to God, to identify the interests of Muslims, to unite, coordinate and bring Muslims together, to allow Muslims to cooperate against the enemies of Islam, and to allow them to express their views and to disown the infidels.

It is for this purpose that the pilgrims will do their duty, which is to disown the infidels, the United States, and Israel this year as in the previous years. It seems that the obstacles created by the Al Sa'ud regime on issues relating to Iranian pilgrims, included in the report by the supervisor of Iranian pilgrims to the imam of the ummah, are measures meant to oppose the political dimension of hajj and to prevent the Muslims from discussing their issues and problems in this great Islamic congress. In this connection the imam of the ummah said: The Al Sa'ud regime should know that if it acts otherwise, it will face all the Muslims of the world. However, it will be in its own interests to act correctly and properly.

While the Al Sa'ud regime, following the policy which originates from Wahhabism, believes in banning anymore, even chanting slogans against the interests of the United States and Israel, the ulema and thinkers of the world of Islam question the legitimacy of Al Sa'ud's control over the holy Islamic locations and confirm that regime's subservient nature and its alliance with the United States and the Zionist regime occupying Jerusalem, which continues to crush, kill and render homeless the oppressed Palestinian nation.

At present the hasty actions of the Al Sa'ud regime in connection with the hajj rituals and its violations of the sanctity of the holy mosques are worrying the world of Islam about the future of the hajj rituals and further insults to all that is considered sacred and holy by the world's Muslims, particularly as Mecca and the house of God are the most holy places for the world's Muslims to such an extent that they consider it their Islamic obligation to pursue the preservation of their sanctity and to ensure that they are run in accordance with Islam.

Larijani Comments on UN Resolution, Toxic Gas

LD121916 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] [Passage omitted] Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy foreign minister of our country, gave an interview to the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London following his visit to the United Nations and his talks with UN secretary general. He stated that the United States does not want to see UN Resolution No 598 implemented. He added: The United States and (?another) of the fabricators of UN Resolution No 598 intended to impose a military boycott on Iran through this resolution and following the expected Iranian refusal to agree to it. They were not and still are not prepared to implement this resolution.

ABoaut his discussions with the UN secretary general, he said: In view of a warning [as heard] by UN officials demanding to know whether the Islamic Republic of Iran accepts or refuses to abide by this resolution, we advised the secretary general that a positive or negative response would not help the implementation of the resolution. If it is obligatory, then its method of implementation is very important. This is reflected in the secretary general's proposal and Iran has unconditionally accepted it. However, if the resolution is to be used as a means to put pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as a means to allow Saddam to escape from his plight, then the Islamic Republic of Iran will never surrender to this pressure or goal.

Mr Larijani, on a brief stop-over in London, also gave a news conference to a large group if international correspondents. Outlining the aims of his trip to the United Nations he said: We have given the secretary general our full cooperation while the Iraqis pay no attention to international requests and are not prepared to accept the secretary general's proposal.

Noting the arrival of six Iraqi soldiers, claimed by Iraq to be victims of chemical weapons, in London, he said: The Iraqi regime which has destroyed 5,000 of its citizens in Halabjah using chemical weapons and which has also hurt thousands of others using the same means can easily do the same thing to its own soldiers in order to rid itself of international pressure arising from the Halabjah crime.

Karrubi Meets Lebanese, Palestinian Families

LD130452 Tehran IRNA in English 0440 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—Relatives of Lebanese and Palestinian martyrs currently visiting Iran at the invitation of Shahid (martyrs) Foundation met imam's representative and head of the foundation Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi Tuesday.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi warned the Zionist regime that the more pressure it put on oppressed Palestinians the more resistant they would become.

The Lebanese and Palestinian guests visited a hospital and several residential areas hit by Iraqi missiles fired into Tehran.

Velayati Briefs Khamene'i on 18-19 May Seminar

LD092252 Tehran IRNA in English 1729 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 9, IRNA—A seminar titled "Persian Gulf Issues" is to be held here on May 18 and 19 with participation of a group of researchers and scientific and political figures of the country.

President 'Ali Khamene'i was briefed on the seminar's objectives by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a meeting here Saturday.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i stressing on the importance of the geopolitical situation of the Persian Gulf termed the region as the political hub of the world. The Persian Gulf center enjoys special sensitivity, he added.

The president noting that holding of such seminars is necessary, said it is imperative that historic dimensions of Persian Gulf developments and various aspects of regional events be further meditated.

For further enriching such scientific and political societies, it is essential that Iranian researchers and scientific figures residing outside the country attend the seminar in addition to researchers inside the country, he concluded.

The Political and International Research Institute of the Foreign Ministry is organizing the said seminar.

Envoy to Colombia, Majlis Speaker Meet

LD120424 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—Iranian ambassador to Colombia Mir 'Ali Asghar al-Musavi met with Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Monday and briefed him on the latest developments in his area of assignment and Tehran-Bogota relations. The speaker gave necessary guidelines concerning the Islamic Republic's foreign policy in Latin America to Asghar al-Musavi.

Meanwhile, Iran's ambassador in Athens Habibollah Biyazar conferred with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the eve of his departure to Greece, here the same day.

Defense Minister, Air Force Chief Discuss War

NC080515 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1617 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Political roundtable discussion with Brigadier General Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali, minister of defense, and Brigadier General Mansur Sattari, commander of the Air Force, moderated by Afshar, correspondent of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 7 April in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Afshar] As Your Excellency is aware, one facet of every war, particularly the war imposed on us, is economic. As we are spending increasingly less foreign exchange in this war, we are winning in the economic sphere. The enemy spends much more on the purchase of arms, thus losing the economic war. Iran's mass production of arms, particularly those being used extensively in our war, will result in our ability to offer greater resistance economically. In light of this introduction, could Your Excellency please tell us about the performance of our defense industries in mass arms production to date?

[Jalali] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] Our ordnance industries, as you know, are over 60 years old and include manufacture of various kinds of arms and ammunition. Undoubtedly, the best and most important kind of defense industry is one that can support the country's defense and independence. After the revolution our defense industry made rapid strides toward self-sufficiency and, with the continuation of the war, it is answering our needs for arms and ammunition for the war. Immense efforts have been made which merit attention and appreciation. [passage omitted]

The progress made in the defense industry can be seen by looking at just a small part of it. We do not need to obtain any small caliber weapons from abroad. Any kind of small caliber weapon you can imagine is manufactured by the defense industries and supplied to the brothers in the Armed Forces, the IRGC, and all those engaged in fighting. With regard to light weaponry, we have reached 90-percent self-sufficiency. We are self-sufficient in G-3 guns; and Kalashnikovs will be produced, as we recently planned, so that we need not import them from abroad. Two months ago we produced a light weapon called the (Tondar-9), and we are now self-sufficient in its production. We also plan to manufacture small revolvers such as the Colt, beginning mass production in a month or so, God willing.

As for high caliber weapons, we produce various kinds of artillery weapons and supply them to our fighters. In terms of quality they are superior, and production volumes depend on the needs of our Armed Forces. We are able to meet our needs, whatever they may be. You mentioned the foreign exchange aspect. Our costs are sometimes as low as one-third the cost of arms purchased abroad. For example, in view of the current war of cities, the missile war imposed on us by the enemy and despite our loathing of the tit-for-tat policy we are forced to resort to, 80 percent of the missiles raining down on the Saddamists and sending them to hell are manufactured by our defense industries. Their cost, as I mentioned, is one-third what we would spend if purchased from abroad. When we compare prices, we concluded that we save approximately $2 billion annually in foreign exchange, a large sum.

We have produced boats equipped with weapons that can fire automatically at targets without endangering our men. We have manufactured pilotless planes programmed to photograph the battlefronts. They fly to a target and carry out whatever instructions given. If we want them to return instead of crashing into the target, we program them to do so. They then land via a parachute, and we can reuse them.

In any case, the defense industry is our country's most important industry, and we are fortunate that it manufactures the variety of items we need at the battlefronts, due to the lofty efforts and planning of engineers and the strong arms and selflessness of the workers. We should kiss their hands and congratulate them on their service to the Islamic Republic. God willing, next week we will be able to give the martyr-nurturing people glad tidings which will make them very happy.

[Afshar] Thank you. Brigadier Sattari, today our viewers and compatriots heard happy news about the bold operations of the fast-flying eagles of our Air Force who attacked Baghdad's military-economic installations, including the Al-Dawrah refinery. Recently, we have been hearing nightly of more than 35 operations by our pilots. The pilots carry out numerous flights now, but for quite a while they did not carry out such frequent flights over enemy areas. For 1 and 1/2 months now numerous operations have been going on. Could you please tell us whether the Air Force has acquired some new facilities that allow it to carry out these frequent missions, or are they doing this with the same resources as before?

[Sattari] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In the past year we have carried out extensive planning, most of which concerned our training program. This was done so that our existing specialized forces in all technical and operational fields would reach a level at which they could carry out assignments with superior performance. We also anticipated the entry of younger forces into the system. The program had already begun, but we accelerated it. You must have heard numerous reports in the media about the training of new pilots and the preparation of young cadres for the Air Force. Ultimately, with the decisions made for war support and extensive activity generated on a nationwide scale by all, the Air Force has prepared itself to provide optimum operational support.

Today, praise be to God, with the assistance of our valiant and dedicated pilots who are serving the cause of war to the utmost of their ability and have maintained their readiness with high morale, we are able to participate in these operations. This came about with the commencement by Iraq of the war of the cities. We have exerted maximum pressure on the general military centers of Iraq, and later we provided support to the inspirational "Val-Fajr-10" operations, which, praise be to God, were carried out remarkably.

It was with reluctance that we became involved in retaliatory operations. To this day we have tried not to participate in operations directed at the civilian sector, aiming at Iraqi military and economic tagets.

Our children intend to carry out a courageous war against the enemy. Yesterday the Air Force deputy commander of operations announced to the press and on the radio that we would attack Baghdad; and today we attacked Baghdad. The same applies to the other [Iraqi] cities. We do not intend to leave, and we will not leave, a secure place in Iraq unless they stop all their crimes. However, we will continue to concentrate our major efforts against Iraq's economic and military targets, with this morale and this strength. We have taken nothing from anywhere. What we have is ours. During the past year we have tried to reconstruct, to prepare the necessary means, to prepare everything to implement the mission and to change methods and tactics, thus preparing ourselves for difficult operations. This was done, thank God, and you can see the results. This is nothing new, and we truly see no need for new directions in the Air Force. We can confront Iraq effectively with what we have now.

[Afshar] In your remarks you stated that the major activities in the Air Force have been concentrated on training forces. Each force, and particularly the Air Force, consists of two parts: manpower and equipment. Please state what the Air Force has done to train forces, particularly flight cadres.

[Sattari] Our program is quite extensive. You know that the skills and expertise of the Air Force and its cadre of experts were all based on the American system, without exception. Even the books were American. The same applied to degrees received. With the great changes that we brought about, the entire method of education and structure of training were changed. This was a great task—in other words, a cultural revolution in the Air Force. This task has been completed, thank God. The establishment of the Air Force College is one of the steps we are pursuing intensively. We began working toward this after receiving the president's approval . Most of the courses have been approved by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education. This college will become a core for training.

As for the pilot training, we have created the flight college as part of the Air Force College. The training of pilots, which had been handled completely abroad—we even had students abroad after the revolution—is now taking place in our country, using our own planes and our superb flight teachers. The youth, children of the revolutionary generation, who enter the Air Force as fighter pilots, will become our most select pilots. All the teachers are completely satisfied with these young pilots, who are graduating from various courses, flying various fighters, and going to operational battalions. God willing, they will provide a strong backbone for our system in the future. What we have started is actually the result of a cultural revolution and, as stated by the president, a revolutionary culture in the Air Force and Armed Forces.

[Afshar] A couple of questions came to mind while you were speaking. You stated that after the revolution and for a limited period of time our pilots were trained in a foreign country. Which country? Was it a Western country or a Third World country? Also, you referred to the change in the system of the Air Force, which was to be an American system. As most of our Air Force equipment—such as our planes, our fighters—are American, and in view of the fact that we are at war and these planes are flying and need spare parts, which are also American, has the Air Force thought about changing the system?

[Sattari] As far as the training of pilots is concerned, with the commencement of the revolution, our students who were studying in the United States returned to the country. We needed a similar system to help them complete their training. As we were not ready to set up a regular pilot training college as such, these students were sent to Pakistan at the beginning of the revolution and before the imposed war. This training was limited to before the war. With the commencement of the war we thought about creating the pilot training college in its present form and acquiring the appropriate methods, textbooks, and teachers.

We started the college and, as stated, have progressed to the point of the flight college today. As for the system, apart from American equipment, in the Air Force we also have West European equipment, which is completely different, technically speaking, from the American system, as well as equipment manufactured by Eastern countries. We have nearly reached the point where we will not have to rely on the Western or Eastern systems. We have created a method within the Air Force itself and are trying to renovate our equipment ourselves. We have taken steps toward manufacturing and standardizing systems, and we have created the necessary flexibility to use any type of weapon in the Air Force. Therefore, it makes no difference for the Air Force.

[Afshar] Thank you. I have a few questions to ask Brig Gen Jalali, and then I will return to you with more questions.

Brig Gen Jalali, early in the program you stated that we are approaching the week of praise for the fighters of Islam. How is it that this week has been chosen at this juncture? Was this day previously designated or was it chosen recently?

[Jalali] You know that 18 April is the Islamic Republic's Army Day. As you stated, the fighters of Islam have played the greatest part in confronting the enemy. It was necessary, in order to praise them, to set aside a week; and this week was chosen because it coincides with the Islamic Republic's Army Day. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] In your remarks you pointed out that the body of the Army of Islam is formed of two parts. One part consists of the Basijis, who go to the battlefronts voluntarily, and the other of the soldiers of the Armed Forces who can justly be described as the backbone of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces. Much has been said about the personality of the Basijis. In wartime it is customary to praise soldiers, but not much has been said about the soldiers of the Armed Forces who, as I said, form the backbone of the Islamic Republic's Army. Do you think 1 week is sufficient to praise these soldiers, or should other steps also be taken? I do not know, maybe such steps have already been taken. For example, we had a plan announced early last [Iranian] year. This was the Ansar al-Mujahidin plan, under which the families of Basijis on the fronts were assisted in the best way possible. Is there a similar plan for the soldiers of the Army of Islam?

[Jalali] Do you not think that part of the shortcoming, if we can call it this, in praising our soldiers has to do with the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran? I think that the Voice and Vision should think about our soldiers more. Yes, I too believe more praise should have been given. [passage omitted]

[Afshar] Brig Gen Jalali, it was stated recently that military service in the Armed Forces has been increased. In view of the fact that this increase may affect soldiers' morale when announced in the middle of their service, do you not think it would have been better if this decision had been made at the beginning of their enlistment?

[Jalali] What we are doing.... [changes thought] Of course, this decision was made by the Supreme Defense Council. What these brothers and doing, and I too have the honor to be a member of this Council, is what our people want. When our people chant slogans like "War, war until victory," we should bring about what is necessary to implement these slogans. At one point it was discerned that we must have a suitable number of soldiers to carry out operations. We cannot wait for a few months to pass before carrying out operations. Whenever the time is right for operations, we must make the necessary decisions.

At this juncture, too, this decision was taken. Of course, yes, the brother soldiers who were to complete their service in, say, 10 days were suddenly told to serve 4 more months, after expecting to return to their families sooner, with their families expecting them home sooner. However, on the other hand, we have fulfilled the very expectation of that family and that soldier. We have done nothing more than carry out our duty. We hope they will show magnanimity and forgive us. At any rate, we have to make decisions to carry out the duties they have assigned to us.

[Afshar] Brig Gen Sattari, last week we heard on the news that the Islamic Republic's Air Force successfully built and launched the Parastu [swallow] plane. This is a light passenger and training plane, if I am right. In view of the fact that the airplane manufacturing industry has a complicated technology which advances daily in the world, and in view of the fact that we need advanced fighter planes as we are in a state of war, does the Air Force have any programs to manufacture or acquire advanced fighters, in any way possible?

[Sattari] You know that the Air Force was almost the pioneer in the field of the Armed Forces' self-sufficiency. The Air Force started industrial research from the outset of the revolution. Following the president's decree, an office of assistance to the self-sufficiency jihad was formed in the Air Force; and great efforts were made until very recently. There are other major programs now which are in the process of being carried out. The outcome was that the fighting capability of the Air Force was improved and it was able to carry out its mission without foreign assistance. We made this more extensive. In other words, we tried to acquire the equipment needed by the Air Force and we used all the resources of the Air Force, in terms of both equipment and manpower.

The Parastu plane was not our first undertaking. We tested the first antiaircraft gun manufactured by the Islamic Republic of Iran before 11 February last year. Now we have begun its mass production. The Parastu plane is the first plane that is being manufactured in the Air Force, but it is not the only aircraft manufacturing project. We are presently pursuing plans for a couple of other planes, including a fighter bomber. We are working hard on this and we are confident that our efforts will yield results. The entire Air Force is active in this. All its branches throughout the country are active. We are using the capabilities of the defense industries. We are using the universities and research centers, as well as large factories throughout the country. We have prepared a vast and extensive plan for this, and we are trying to complete the pre-production phases by ourselves. God willing, the remainder of the process will be continued by the country's defense industries; and we are confident that many successes will be scored.

Apart from aircraft, we are also working on our defense affairs. Our program includes the manufacture of other antiaircraft weapons. These activities are proceeding rapidly; and I am confident that with all the possibilities, equipment, and committed experts in the Air Force, we will definitely achieve rapid results. Our personnel built this plane in less than 5 months. This was practically the beginning of the movement, and it instilled self-confidence into those persons who will continue this movement. The designers of this plane have drawn up another plan to be implemented immediately after this. This is why I am confident that in the future we will not be dependent on other countries. We ourselves will take effective steps in this field.

As for the other equipment that our planes must carry, we depend greatly on our defense industries, on the IRGC's self-sufficiency industries, and on ourselves. We have used much materiel ourselves. We have used various missiles, missiles transferred from one plane to another, surface-to-air and air-to-surface missiles. The various bombs which are being produced today, bombs of 1.5 tonnes or more, are being manufactured by the defense industries, by the IRGC self-sufficiency industries, and by the Air Force. We are pursuing this path very carefully. The more the pressure, the better our situation becomes. I feel very certain that we have reached the stage where we can carry out our duties and stand on our own two feet. I feel certain too that the more they pressure us, the more it will be to their detriment. However, God willing, we will break them.

[Afshar] Brig Gen Jalali, as far as the defense industries are concerned, something we greatly need these days, something that is being talked about a great deal and which, thank God, we have shown in practice that we have the potential to use and have in fact done so, is the manufacture of missiles, long-range missiles. I have recently heard that a missile with a range of more than 130 km has been tested. If this is true and you confirm this, please tell us about the trial phase and when this missile will be used.

[Jalali] Yes, what you have heard is true. Of course, we will tell the people of all our efforts when we have achieved a final result. We did the same in the past with our previous missile. Our system is such that we start designing and mass producing simultaneously. In other words, when the design part of the operation yields results, then production begins immediately so that we may avoid delays in fulfilling our responsibilities. I consider it necessary to state here that all the missiles manufactured by Iran and which have created hell for the enemy are built by our country's defense industries. The missile to which you referred and a missile with a much greater range have been tested. I do not want to specify a time when the missile will be introduced because I may be wrong by a couple of days, and of course our people and you are right....

[Afshar, interrupting] (?If you give us an approximate time.)

[Jalali] Approximately, God willing, by the end of this [Iranian] month [month ending 20 April] we will be able to have a complete result as far as mass production is concerned and to begin the mass production. These are good tidings for our people and a warning to Saddam and to the Saddamists, who should know that if they want to continue their mischiefs and crimes, we will create hellfire for them. We do not want to do so. We are reluctant to do so, because we have manufactured these missiles only for retaliation, and retaliation has always been (?something which we have been reluctant to do). So Saddam should pull himself together and stop his crimes. He should come to the arena courageously. However, I do not think that he has the least bit of courage or manliness.

[Afshar] Recently the Iraqi regime, which is helpless in its confrontation with our fighters, has been issuing communiques stating that on such and such a day they have downed three or four planes of the Islamic Republic of Iran—sometimes even six. At any rate, it states that from one to six planes are shot down. Please comment on this. This is my first question.

My second question is we have heard on the news that in recent operations, our fighters have downed Iraqi planes. Films have been taken and the pilots who have been taken captive or who have been wounded and are in hospital have been seen by our viewers. This shows that our defense capability is high. Please comment on how our defense operates, and also on these allegations by the Iraqi regime so that our viewers can have a true picture of what is happening.

[Sattari] We foresaw that Iraq would move toward the war of the cities long before it started this phase. We prepared the operations by the fighters of Islam. Also, we realized that we would have to provide air cover for the fighters of Islam on every front. This is why we prepared ourselves. We prepared ourselves and confronted it well, too. We fought the enemy well both in surface-to-air defense, and in the use of fighter planes. We downed a large number of the enemy's planes. The people of Sanandaj saw our pilots downing the enemy planes. Our pilots hit enemy planes over the city of Borujerd while a bomb was being released. Two of these planes were downed.

We hit a large number of planes during the "Val-Fajr-10" operations. Much of this was captured on film. We have a large number of parts of these planes. We have the dead pilot. We disclosed details found in identification documents belonging to some of the pilots. We also took many pilots captive. Actually, these were among their best pilots and were carrying out the most difficult missions. They participated in the worst missions against our country and today they are our captives.

So much for us. As for Iraq, it announces daily that it has hit a plane. If you are not lying, then show us one of these planes. Let Iraq show that it is not lying. Even today, after Baghdad was bombed, Iraq announced that it had hit our plane. I know that the brave pilot who carried out the mission returned safely to his battalion. They have lied many times. It is better for them to stop. They can speak only if they have facts to prove that they have hit our plane. We know how to fight. We have had shortages for 7 years, and therefore know the value of and appreciate the materiel we have. Our tactics and methods are constantly changing. We are using our equipment in the best way possible. If this were not the case, then we would not have the defense that we have today. This is the only equation that applies. This is why we announce that we have downed a plane only when we are certain. We show the pilot who is our captive. Iraq too makes announcements. However, all our equipment is safe and all our pilots are safe and carry out their missions.

[Afshar] Brig Gen Sattari, after starting the war of the cities, the Iraqi regime has stated that it recently used another type of missile, apart from the Scud-B which it used at the beginning of the war of the cities. Is this allegation by the Iraqi regime true, and if so, what type of missile is this and where was it manufactured?

[Sattari] This missile is the same one that was used before and nothing has changed. We have many facts on this. Precise specifications of this missile were stated by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani during the Friday prayers. There have been no modifications to this missile and nothing has changed. Iraq continues to use the same missile. [passage omitted]

Commander Updates ‘Bayt ol-Moqaddas’ Operations

LD130941 Tehran IRNA in English 0928 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA—A ranking operational commander elaborated on the goals of the successful “Bayt ol-Moqaddas” operations in Panjwin general region and said that the operations were carried out to retaliate enemy wicked acts on residential areas and chemical bombing of Kurdistan of Iraq and Iranian border villages.

The operations, he said, were also directed to destroying the enemy's war machinery and forces and providing the grounds for Muslim combatants liberation of the heights in the operational region.

The operational commander noted that liberation of parts of Iran which were occupied since the start of the Iraqi-imposed war was another goal of the operations, adding that part of the Iraqi Kurdistan territory was liberated and several Iranian border villages are not within surveillance range of Iraqi forces.

Muslim combatants, he stressed, crossed enemy and natural barriers and arduous high mountains covered with trees. Moreover, they left behind several rivers and liberated strategic heights of 1380, 1833 and 1670 as well as heights overlooking Toteman Plain in Iraq, he added.

Muslim combatants captured heights 1833 and took control of the strategic enemy supply route in Panjwin, and Panjwin-Sayyid Sadiq road, he also said.

The commander also noted that Iran's Air Force effectively supported the attacking forces inflicting heavy casualties on the Iraqi Ba‘thist troops.

Muslim combatants destroyed Infantry Brigade 806 by 75 percent, Mountain Infantry Brigade 36 by 30 percent, Al-Harathah Tank Battalion by 80 percent, Commando Brigade Al-Sadiq of Infantry Division 27 by 30 percent, Artillery Battalions 18 and 8 by 50 to 80 percent and Independent Infantry Brigade 96 by 50 percent, he said.

At least 3,500 enemy troops have been killed and hundreds of them taken captive of whom some 310 soldiers were taken to the rear side of the fronts, he said.

The operational commander also stressed that more than 200 vehicles, 30 tanks and troops carriers, 80 artillery sets and mortar launchers, logistic equipment, and munition dumps have been destroyed. The commander said that the enemy forces have launched at least ten counterattacks against Muslim combatants by Tuesday but that none were successful.

Missile Strikes, Ground Operations Continue

Khatem ol-Anbiya‘ HQ Communique

LD121234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Apr 88

[“Text” of the communique issued by the Khatem ol-Anbiya‘ headquarters of the Armed Forces and the IRGC on 12 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. “Verily God loves those who fight for His sake, and they have a firm base.” [Koranic verse]. O ummah of Islam, your heroic sons have created a new epic on the battlefronts. The courageous warriors of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the same week dedicated to the honor of Islam's soldiers, have ridden their steely horses of the time to defeat the enemy forces in the Panjwin sector and to present another resounding victory to the Muslim nation of Iran. The honor, perseverance, and courage of the selfless soldiers of Islam's army were the basis for this great victory.

O heroic and steadfast people of Iran! In the wake of the Iraqi Ba‘thist Zionist regime's resumption of beastly attacks on our country's residential areas, in order to retaliate for the enemy's crimes, the courageous warriors of the Ground Forces launched new heroic operations last night and inflicted another defeat on the feeble enemy forces in the Panjwin sector. In these heroic operations named “Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5,” and with the holy codename of “Ya Aba ‘Abdallah al-Husayn”—peace be upon him—the brave fighters of the Ground Forces, by crossing difficult natural and harassing obstacles in the Panjwin sector, succeeded in routing the duped Saddamist forces on strategic heights Nos 1470, 1680, 1833, 1540, 1560, and 1626 south of Panjwin and killed or wounded more than 2,700 enemy troops.

The courageous men of Islam's army, by liberating the said heights in the early hours of the operations, took control of the (Nal-Pari) pass in the Panjwin sector and liberated the villages of (Susmankureh), (Susmanpanju), and (Gorehjireh) and purged them of the presence of the duped Saddamist forces. In these victorious operations the 96th and 424th Brigades of the 27th Division were destroyed by 50 percent; the 1st, 2d, and 3d Battalions of the 806th Brigade of the 27th Division more than 80 percent; the 1st and 3d Battalions of the 33d Infantry Brigade of the 2d Division by 70 percent; and the Al-Harithah Tank Battalion of the 27th Division by 80 percent. Also during this battle hundreds of military vehicles, 45 tanks and personnel carriers, and dozens of other light and heavy weapons were set on fire, and a large amount of equipment was captured by the army of Islam. The zealous warriors of the monotheist army also captured a large number of the duped forces, and to date, 235 have been taken behind the battalions.

While the relentless battle of the infidel-breaking fighters of Islam was taking place in the Panjwin sector, the heroic pilots of the Air Force carried out 36 separate missions, heavily bombing enemy concentration points and military equipment in this sector. After inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the enemy, all safely returned to base. During these operations, backed by intense artillery fire by the Army, the courageous pilots of the Airborne Division, by attacking tanks and personnel carriers of the feeble enemy, created another epic and once again made the enemy taste bitter defeat. The relentless battle of the heroies of Islam's army is still continuing in the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5" operational theater to annihilate remnants of the enemy's cowardly troops.

Praise and greetings to those who are seeking the path of justice. Praise be upon those mojahedin who rise for prayers at dawn and who, after gaining strength from their faith in God, charge against the heart of the forces of tyranny until they bring liberation and victory to mankind and until they bring defeat and destruction to the aggressors and arrogant powers. "God will help those who help Him, and He will strengthen them." [Koranic verse]

[Signed] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters

2 Heights Captured

LD121820 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Communique issued by the Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters of the Armed Forces and the IRGC on 12 April]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Heroic and resistant ummah of Iran. The brave men of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in continuation of the heroic "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5" operations, succeeded this afternoon in capturing the two important strategic heights, Nos 1,670 and 1,380, known as (Shakhgan Shaukat), in the northwest part of Panjwin, and in killing several more misguided enemy troops or in wounding and capturing them. With the liberation of these two strategic heights, which face the military township of Bubiyan, all the heights situated in the west of the Panjwin operational sector have been liberated.

During the liberation of the heights, the 8th and 18th Battalions of the 27th Army Division were 70 percent destroyed, the Salah al-Din Naqshabandi Battalion was 40 percent destroyed, and over 800 more enemy troops were killed or wounded. This brought the number of Saddamist casualties since the start of the victorious "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5" operations to more than 3,500. Also, with the capture of 75 more of the enemy forces, including several officers and NCO's, the number of enemy troops captured since the start of these operations until this afternoon has reached 310.

This afternoon the weakened enemy forces grouped the remainder of its troops and embarked on three feeble counterattacks to retake the lost heights, but due to the resolve of the brave troops of the Iran's Army, all three counteroffensives were repelled and the enemy forces were forced to flee the operational sector, leaving behind a number of troops who were killed or wounded.

During the victorious operations by the army of Islam, which was accompanied by heavy artillery fire and heroic attacks by the pilots of the Army Aviation Force, the fast-flying pilots of the Air Force carried out a further eight missions and heavily bombed the positions, fortifications, and troops concentrations of the misguided Saddamist troops! All returned safely to base. The heroes of the Air Force who have carried out 44 missions since the start of the brave "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5" operations, have thus added another golden page to the epics of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The courageous men of the monotheistic army, by achieving these fresh victories, have succeeded so far in liberating up to 40 sq km of the Panjwin operational sector and also part of our territory which was occupied by the Saddamists. The relentless battle of the fighters of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran is continuing in order to repulse the remaining forces of the enemy in the region. "Seek assistance from God and you shall be victorious." [Koranic verse]

[Signed] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters

Communique No 3,170

LD121708 Tehran IRNA in English 1659 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—Iranian missile boats intercepted and searched 11 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Monday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Tuesday.

The 3170th Joint Staff communique said the Islamic Republic Air Forces carried out its routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday ignoring three provocative warnings from foreign warships. Providing excellent air cover to the Navy, the aircraft reconnoitered 86 ships in the waterway.

Iranian long-range artillery pounded economic and military centers in the northeastern Iraqi city of Al-Sulaymaniyah yesterday, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on the enemy.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the battlefields Monday raging somewhat more heavily in Chazabeh, southern fronts, as a result of which some Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and an enemy munitions dump, several bunkers and a motor pool were destroyed.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded, and four enemy bunkers and a loader destroyed in parts of the southern and western sectors in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Monday, concluded the communique.

5 Iraqi Counterattacks Repulsed

LD121712 Tehran IRNA in English 1656 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5 Operational Region, April 12, IRNA—Five Iraqi counterattacks were repulsed by Muslim combatants of Iran in the Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5 operational region, northeastern Iraq from early morning till noon Tuesday.

The Ba'thist troops were soundly thrashed in their futile bids to regain some key heights liberated by Muslim combatants. Bodies of Iraqi troops litter the operational theatre. Because of the raging battles, the Muslim combatants have had no time to bury the slain Iraqis.

Iraqi Positions Bombed

LD121802 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—Iranian Air Force fighters heavily bombed Iraqi positions and fortifications in "Val-Fajr-10" operational region Tuesday noon. Announcing the above, Joint Staff Command said all Iranian fighter-bombers returned safely to bases after carrying out their missions successfully.

Air Force Operations in Panjwin

LD122150 Tehran IRNA in English 1944 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5 Operational Theater, April 12, IRNA—Pilots of the Iranian Army Aviation Service (Havaniruz) by providing excellent air cover to the Ground Forces and transporting troops and equipment performed one of the best-ever operations in the course of the Iraqi imposed war.

A commander of Havaniruz, in an interview with IRNA here inside northeastern Iraq, said that far-flying Iranian pilots set afire a good number of enemy tanks, personnel carriers, and other equipment, besides killing or wounding a large number of Ba'thist mercenary troops in the victorious "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5" operation.

The latest operations in retaliation for Iraqi missile attacks and bombardments on Iran's residential areas was launched in the Panjwin sector, Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, Monday night.

The Havaniruz pilots during their brief but bright presence in the operational theatre have flown over 193 sorties, despite the rough terrain and difficult weather conditions, he said.

Iraqi POW's on Chemical Weapons

LD121833 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5 Operational Region, April 12, IRNA—Iraqi officers taken prisoner in the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5" operational region today, confirmed the Ba'thist regime's deployment of chemical weapons in various parts of the war fronts.

A captured Iraqi officer identified as 'Abd al-Hamzah Hani Javad Ta'l al-Sabrawi said Ba'thist commanders order Iraqi Air Force to use toxic gases when troops suffer defeat at the hands of Iranian Muslim combatants.

"Bayt ol-Moqaddas-5" operations launched in the Panjwin sector of Iraq's northeastern province by Muslim combatants of Iran Monday night, inflicted heavy casualties and damage on enemy forces.

The POW praised the Iranian combatants' Islamic behaviour toward Iraqi troops. "Iraqi soldiers lack morale for resisting," he admitted.

Another POW, 2nd Lieutenant Muhammad Salih said he was captured at noon and his unit was totally unable to repel Iranian operations because it was quickly besieged by the Muslim combatants.

Warrant Officer, Nasir Muhammad Ahmad from 2nd Company of First Battalion of Brigade 119 of Iraqi Army's Division 27, confessed that deployment of chemical weapons is something normal for the Iraqi Army. Whenever they are under acute pressure from Iranian forces "Iraqi forces are ordered to use poisonous substances," he added.

AP Cited on Tanker Attack

LD121749 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] The ASSOCIATED PRESS, quoting shipping sources in the Persian Gulf, reported that gunboats today attacked an oil tanker belonging to the Hijaz [Saudi] regime close to the Straits of Hormuz and set it on fire. According to this report the 36,904 tonne vessel was attacked in the south of the Persian Gulf.

Pakistan

Press, Politicians Question Army on Depot Blast

BK131000 Hong Kong AFP in English 0941 GMT 13 Apr 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, April 13 (AFP)—Pakistani politicians and the press Wednesday intensified criticism of the government and directly accused the army, whose commander-in-chief is President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, of negligence over the explosion Sunday of a munitions depot near here.

About 100 people were killed and 1,100 injured in the incident and 200 are still missing, according to official accounts, which have not specified what caused the fire and explosions.

Editorials have increasingly accused army leaders of incompetence, negligence and arrogance and politicians have been demanding a public investigation and punishment of those responsible.

The military seized power in Pakistan in 1977 and is the backbone of the nation, so accusations of army incompetence are particularly serious here, a diplomat specializing in Pakistani political affairs said Wednesday.

Qazi Hussain, leader of the right-wing opposition Jamiyat-i Islami party, has called on General Zia to resign immediately. The nine-party opposition Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) has accused him of bearing the responsibility for the tragedy by involving the military in politics.

The government Tuesday ordered an inquest into the blast, to be directed by a high-ranking army officer and the results of which are expected in a week.

But some senators and deputies have called for a public inquest conducted by experts and supreme court judges.

The MRD has criticised the government move.

The blast was at the Ojri Camp in Rawalpindi, which is adjacent to Islamabad. The local press said Wednesday several small, spontaneous demonstrations in the ravaged quarters of Rawalpindi, calling for the resignations of Gen. Zia and Mr. Junejo, were firmly put down by soldiers.

"The atmosphere in the capital and at Rawalpindi has changed during the last few days," the liberal NATION newspaper said Wednesday, adding that "the man in the street is demanding an explanation."

Half the munitions in the depot—including 122mm rockets, mortar shells, and surface-to-air missiles—did not explode, the daily said.

A Karachi daily said the army should place munitions depots outside of cities.

The air temperature around the depot remained very high and two more explosions occurred Tuesday afternoon, press reports said.

Rescue teams were still clearing the area, searching for unexploded munitions and uncovering bodies still buried in the debris, they added.

More than 3,000 people who fled during the explosions and fires, mostly children and the elderly, have still not returned to their homes here, despite radio and television appeals, press reports said.

Some children have been found in Kohat and Peshawar, 150 kilometres (95 miles) away.

Another Explosion at Munitions Dump Noted

BK130301 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] In Pakistan, there has been yet another explosion in the ammunition dump near Islamabad. The blast yesterday hampered salvaging work in the area. Three thousand people are still reported missing after Sunday's explosions. Pakistan Television said that nearly 20,000 burned out or unexploded shells have been recovered so far from an area of 15 square kilometers.

Unexploded Ammunition Removed for Disposal

BK130628 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] A Defense Ministry announcement in Rawalpindi says that all the remaining unexploded and damaged ammunition at Ojri Camp is being moved by the Armyloo the Baragoh Firing Range, where they will be defused by military experts. The process begins this afternoon and will continue for a few days.

During the process of destroying this ammunition, the people are likely to hear some explosions or see smoke. The people, therefore, are advised not to be frightened by these explosions, which will occur during the disposal of this ammunition under a set plan and will not cause any injury. In fact, this step is being taken to avoid any inconvenience to the people and to ensure their safety, the announcement adds.

Train Bomb Blast Near Peshawar Kills 2

BK131007 Hong Kong AFP in English 0922 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Islamabad, April 13 (AFP)—Two railway workers were killed and three injured when a bomb exploded in a train near Peshawar town west of here late Monday, press reports said Wednesday.

The explosive was planted in a wagon carrying railway employees and the blast also damaged the track, disrupting rail traffic for three hours, the reports added. It was not immediately established who was responsible.

More than 500 people have been killed in the past year in bomb explosions across Pakistan which the press and officials blame on Afghanistan's secret police, allegedly to change Pakistan's stand on the Afghan conflict.

About three million Afghan refugees live in Pakistan and Afghan resistance guerrillas opposed to the Kabul regime are based in the tribal border areas near Peshawar.

President Asks Mujahidin To Assess Geneva Accord

BK091315 Hong Kong AFP in English 1309 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Islamabad, April 9 (AFP)—Pakistani President Mohammed Ziaul Haq Saturday called upon the Afghan resistance objectively to assess the Geneva peace accord that Islamabad is due to sign with Kabul next week.

"The Afghan problem is about to come to an end," he told journalists at Islamabad airport before leaving for Kuwait to attend an Organisation of the Islamic Conference meeting.

United Nations mediator on the problem Diego Cordovez announced Friday that an agreement was ready for signature. This followed reports that Moscow and Washington had reached agreement concerning supplies to the Kabul Government and mujahidin resistance respectively.

But radical seven-party resistance alliance chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said Friday: "The accord will not end war in Afghanistan."

He said this was because it did not meet the resistance's two main demands: an unconditional Soviet military withdrawal and the replacement of the current Kabul regime by a mujahidin Islamic government.

The rebel chief also warned that if Pakistan signed the accord it would lose its "credibility and respect" among Afghan refugees, who would not return home.

"Our holy war will continue until the last Soviet soldier leaves and the Najibullah regime (in Kabul) is toppled," he declared.

Asked if Pakistan would try to convince the mujahidin to reconcile their differences on the accord, Gen. Zia said the resistance had a particular stand and "we agree to some extent with their point of view".

He said Pakistan valued their objections on certain clause. "But we hope they will pay more attention to the positive aspects of the Geneva accord."

President, Junejo Greet Chinese Leadership

BK091531 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] The president and prime minister have congratulated Mr Yang Shangkun and Mr Li Peng on their election as the president and prime minister of China respectively.

The president, in his message to the Chinese president, said he is looking forward to visiting China soon for holding talks with him on matters of mutual interest.

The prime minister, in his message to the Chinese premier, said he is confident that the existing exemplary relations of friendship between China and Pakistan will be further strengthened in the coming year.

The president has also congratulated Mr Deng Xiaoping on his reelection as the chairman of China's Central Military Commission.

Kabul's Protest Over Paktia Shelling Rejected

BK130532 Islamabad Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Pakistan has rejected a Kabul regime's protest, describing as baseless the allegation that the Pakistani Armed Forces had shelled the (Gobori) Post in Paktia Province on 24 March.

Hungarian Industry Minister Meets Junejo 11 Apr

BK120241 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Hungarian Industry Minister Frigyes Berecz called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi yesterday and discussed with him matters relating to bilateral relations, especially the promotion of bilateral cooperation in the fields of engineering and agriculture. It has been stated that the two countries will exchange delegations of experts to identify areas of future bilateral cooperation.

The Hungarian minister expressed grief and sympathy on behalf of the government and the people of his country at the tragic mishap of 10 April.

Planning Minister on Loans From Romania

BK080424 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Romania has offered long-term loans to Pakistan for various development programs, especially for the production of electricity with the use of locally available coal. This was made known by Dr Mahbul Haq, federal minister for planning and development, who led the Pakistani delegation at the ministerial level talks between Pakistan and Romania in Karachi last night.

He said Romania will provide long duration loans on simple terms with repayment in the form of exported Pakistani goods. The federal minister said both sides have agreed to prepare a list of development programs within the purview of the Seventh 5-Year Plan. They have also expressed the hope that bilateral economic cooperation will further improve during the seventh plan period.

About the talks, Dr Mahbul Haq said we have exchanged views on various issues, especially on trade between Pakistan and Romania, and have agreed on the immediate implementation of the agreement on barter trade which was signed last year. We have also held talks on cooperation in developmental programs in light of the Seventh 5-Year Plan. The Romanian president will send the Romanian planning minister to Pakistan for discussions in this connection.

Muslim League Nominates New Sind Chief Minister

BK101136 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] The Muslim League parliamentary party in the Sind Assembly today unanimously nominated Mr Akhtar Ali G. Kazi for the chief ministership of Sind. The meeting was attended by over 90 MPA's [Member of Provincial Assembly] and was presided over by Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, who is also the president of the Pakistan Muslim League.

Commentary Restates Policy of Non-Interference

BK080854 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT7 Apr 88

[Hassan Akhtar Gardezi commentary]

[Text] Pakistan adheres to the policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. This policy is based on principles, self-interest, and requirements of practicability. Indeed, if Pakistan nourished extraterritorial ambitions, it could not, by way of reciprocity, seek for itself safeguards against extraneous interference. Pakistan's past is so clear and clean on the score that there hardly ever was any need to explain it. Yet, one has to sometimes. For instance, only recently, an Indian minister of state and the governor of a province charged Pakistan with having supported Sikh extremists. A spokesman of the Pakistan Foreign Office has refuted this charge. He has reiterated that Pakistan is opposed to terrorism in all forms and everywhere.

The problem of Sikhs in India is an internal problem of India. It can only be settled by the Indian people and the Indian Government themselves. The spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, however, said Pakistan would be glad to discuss and resolve all issues, including trans-border issues between India and Pakistan. He recalled that at Pakistan's instance the home secretaries of the two countries had held a successful meeting in Lahore in December 1986. On his return to New Delhi, the Indian home secretary had expressed satisfaction with Pakistan's attitude and the outcome of the meeting. And at their meeting at Kathmandu in November 1987, the prime ministers of Pakistan and India had agreed that the home secretaries should meet again in New Delhi. Pakistan is awaiting information from New Delhi regarding dates for second meeting on trans-border issue.

Pakistan has always sought to establish normal, friendly, and cooperative relations with all countries, especially with its neighbors, including India. It will be seen that Pakistan and India and also other countries of SAARC have much in common in culture, geography, and history. On this—our common heritage—we can build a future that is more wholesome than the recent past. And it may be done on the basis of the universally acknowledged principles of mutual respect for each other's national sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-use of force, non-intervention, and non-interference in internal affairs. On that, we agree [word indistinct] in accordance with charters of the United Nations and SAARC.

Let us propound and also practice peaceful coexistence, which works to the mutual benefits of all countries, big and small. That should not be impossible to achieve, even though there are obviously many difficulties. If we are prudent, we will look at our problems in a wider perspective—the perspective of history. We should be guided by good will and not by antipathy. We have problems enough of our own—problems of poverty, illiteracy, overpopulation and national integration. In these circumstances, externalization of domestic problems, like the Sikh problem in India, could at best be a temporary expedient and would further complicate issues. Let us avoid that.

Sri Lanka

IPKF Reportedly Detains 300 Tamils

BK120850 Hong Kong AFP in English 0830 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Colombo, April 12 (AFP)—Indian troops have detained nearly 300 Tamils in Sri Lanka's north on suspicion of being linked to Tamil rebels, residents said Tuesday.

The civilians have been rounded up from villages around Vavuniya town, some 255 kilometres (160 miles) from here, over the past weeks, they said.

"People are being detained almost daily," a resident said, adding local citizens complained to Indian Army officials Monday that it amounted to harassment.

Tamil rebel sources in Vavuniya said the detentions began after posters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were put up in a few villages.

The LTTE is the dominant group which has refused to accept an Indo-Sri Lanka accord to end a Tamil separatist war.

"Many of those detained have been marched on the streets like criminals," the resident said. "Some of them are elderly and some government officials."

Indian officials here were not immediately available for comment, but one official admitted Monday to some 250 detentions.

Hundreds of Indian troops are known to be hunting for LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran in the jungles of Vavuniya District since last month.

The troops Sunday destroyed a LTTE camp in the area and killed two rebels while one army officer and seven soldiers were wounded during cordon and search operations, the official added.

The residents alleged that some villagers had been assaulted during interrogation in Indian Army camps.

Some 52,000 Indian troops are in Sri Lanka's north and east to enforce the peace pact.

Some 400 soldiers and more than 1,400 suspected guerrillas have died since New Delhi launched an offensive October 10 to disarm the LTTE.

Major Army Command Divisions Reorganized

BK081010 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0800 GMT 8 Apr 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 08 Apr (LANKA PUWATH)—The Sri Lanka Army now has two major command divisions. Major Commander Brigadier Hamilton Wanasinghe has been promoted as major general and placed in charge of the Northern Command, while Brigadier Asoka Jayewardene also has been promoted to the rank of major general of the Southern Command.

The Northern Command covers the Jaffna, Mullaitivu, Mannar, Vavuni Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Amparai, and Puttalam sectors, and the Southern Command covers the rest of the country, official sources told LANKA PUWATH today. Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army Brigadier Mark Silva has also been promoted to the rank of major general under the reorganization.

Official sources said that Brigadier Daya Wijesekera, Sri Lanka's Security Forces commander of Amparai and Batticaloa, has been placed in command of the Support Force of the Army. Colonel Tilak Ponnamperuma has been appointed commander of Sri Lanka Security Forces, Amparai and Batticaloa.

PLO Envoy Meets President, Speaks to Newsmen

BK061215 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] The just role played by Sri Lanka on behalf of the people of Palestine and their struggle for self-determination further endorses world public opinion on this issue.

The PLO is fully satisfied with Sri Lanka's stand. This was stated by Dr Khayr al-Din 'Abd al-Rahman, special envoy of the PLO at a news conference in Colombo yesterday. Dr Rahman said that the voice of Sri Lanka had been heard at international platforms supporting the Palestinian cause which in turn gave added encouragement to the international solidarity expressed worldwide for the cause.

He said in the on-going uprising in occupied Palestine only stones were used by the Palestinians against the might of the Israeli's massive arsenal and sophisticated weaponry. But no power could bend or break the will of the people. Dr Rahman pointed out that the Palestinians will overcome all odds and succeed in their struggle to establish an independent homeland.

Meanwhile, Dr Khayr al-Din 'Abd al-Rahman left last night after having been received by President Jayewardene. During his stay Dr Rahman also met Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed. The purpose of his visit, Dr Rahman told the president was to convey appreciation of the PLO for the continuous and genuine support Sri Lanka has given to the cause of the Palestinian people. Dr Rahman had detailed talks with Foreign Minister Hameed and in the discussions he briefed Mr Hameed of the present developments in the occupied areas.

Dr Rahman is on a 4-nation tour. He left last night for New Delhi.